SPORTS / A24

Wesley So whips English grandmaster, paces world junior chess

METRO/ A17

Metro water samples contain high metal levels, says Greenpeace

WORLD / A19

Blackwater guards deliberately killed 17, says Iraq probe

NEWS / A2

Jpepa unconstitutional, legal experts tell Senate in position papers

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, October 9, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 303 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Bribery raps vs Palace mar impeach-GMA bid

By Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

IN A SPACE OF A LITTLE OVER A MONTH, a second major bribery allegation has bubbled into the surface—this time involving a newly filed impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rep. Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis

BRIBERY/ A15

Miriam sees Palace ploy in impeachment case

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Christian V. Esguerra

EVEN A STAUNCH MALACAÑANG ally like Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is convinced the impeachment complaint filed by private lawyer Roel Pulido is another ploy to shield President Macapagal-Arroyo from ouster moves by the opposition.

Santiago does not see any difference between the Pulido case and the so-called "sham" complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano two years ago.

Talking with reporters yesterday, Santiago said she expected Malacañang to do the same thing annually until Ms Arroyo steps down from office in 2010.

"Malacañang will no longer be vulnerable," she said. "I imagine that Malacañang will have a timetable every year where 'someone will file an impeachment complaint which will preclude the partisan complaint of the opposition."

"That complaint will ... immunize her from any impeachment attempt for one whole year. Then they will file again in 2008, and another in 2009. Effectively, they will not be able to impeach her."

Santiago said there was nothing wrong with this tactic because the Constitution clearly provided that only one impeachment complaint could be filed against a President in one year.

"This is a political tactic. All is fair

MIRIAM SEES/ A15

LAGUNA Rep. Edgar San Luis: Yes to impeachment complaint. JOAN BONDOC

RP stocks hit record high

Peso closes at 44.35 to US dollar

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE SHARES YESTERDAY soared to a record high amid a rally in US stocks, cuts in interest rates and the weakening of the dollar.

The weak greenback pushed the peso to a seven-year high, prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to buy dollars in the market to temper the Philippine currency's abrupt appreciation.

The peso has gained 10.5 percent so far this year against the US dollar and about 8 percent against the Chinese yuan, making it the second-best performer in Asia behind the Indian rupee.

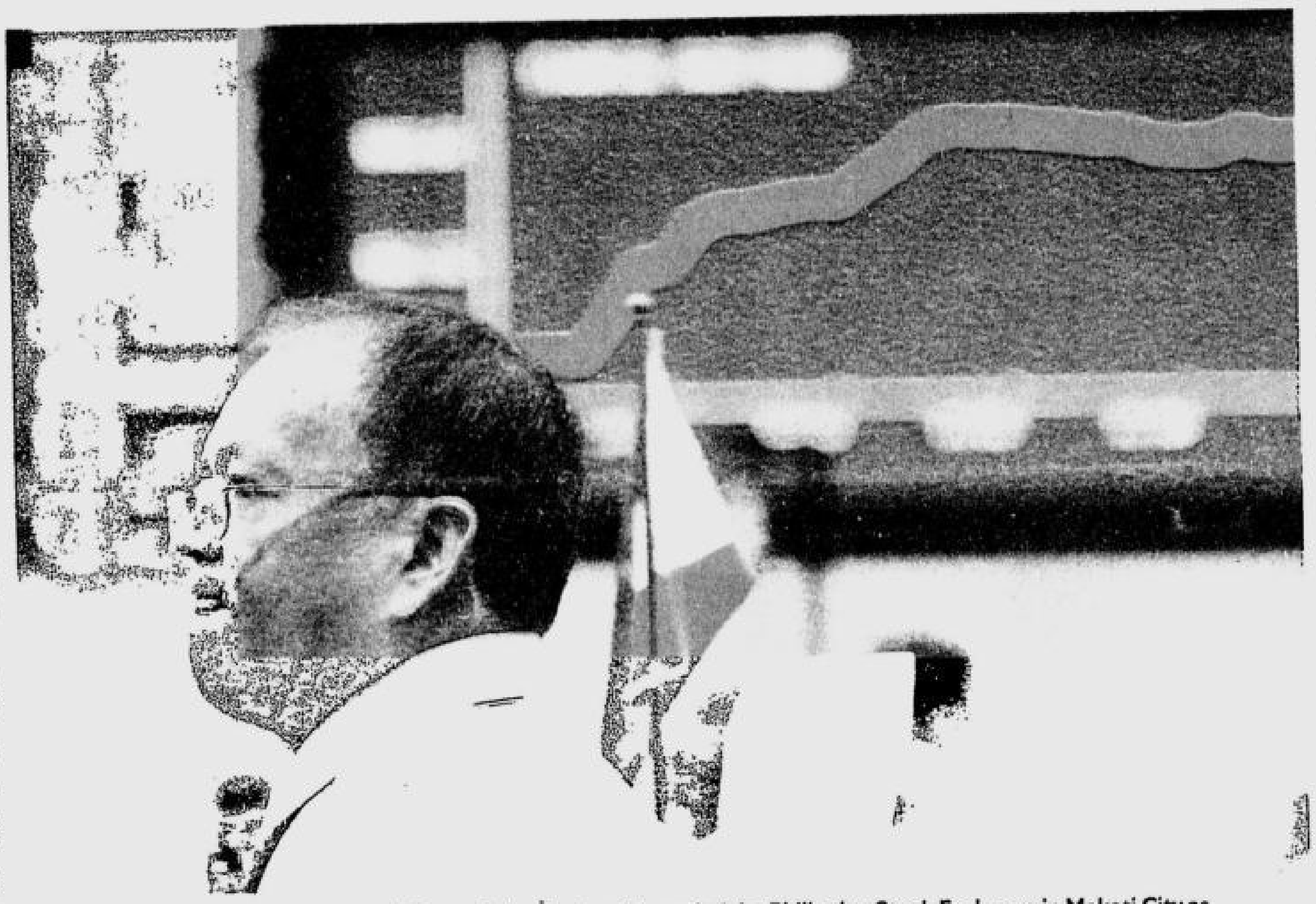
The peso closed at 44.35 to the dollar, up 40 centavos from Friday, its strongest performance since July 10, 2000.

On the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the benchmark PSE index (PSEi)—a barometer of investor confidence in the local economy—climbed 97.59 points or 2.58 percent to 3,873.50. The 30-company index has been posting gains the past six days.

Value turnover hit P5.8 billion, with gainers outnumbering losers 76 to 38, while 53 stocks ended unchanged.

Under the new method of computing the PSEi, using the value of stocks based on prevailing market prices times the number of outstanding shares, yesterday's closing level was the highest since 1990, according to

RP STOCKS/ A4



A TRADER literally bites his tongue in front of the electronic board of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City as Philippine shares soar to an all-time high notwithstanding a series of scandals rocking the Arroyo administration. AP

Hackers attack Neda website

By Riza T. Olchondra and Doris C. Dumlao

NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T.

The website of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) was found hacked on Sunday, enabling visitors to go to X-rated sites.

Users saw nothing unusual about the front page and most of the pages bear until they go to the "'Past Events" page inside the "Events" section.

There, users were led to a screen that listed pornographic ads instead of events.

Most of the "events" were dated 9/29 (Sept. 29) and 9/30 (Sept. 30). Others included "Viagra Online Pharmacy," "Order Viagra," "Cialis Online," "Microbikini," 2Sex Maniac," "Underage Sex," "Sexual Photos," "Sex Party" and "Wild Sex."

HACKERS/ A4

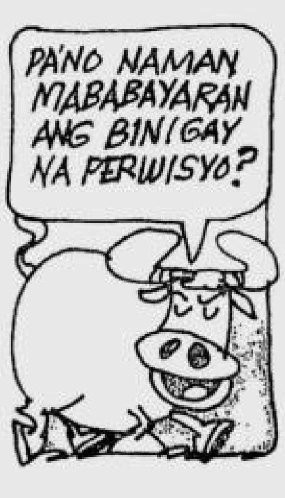
SC orders Malacañang to pay back rentals to 90-year-old woman

By Leila B. Salaverria

TARCILA MENDOZA'S BATTLE TO REclaim her two-story wooden house and lot at 1440 Arlegui St. near Malacañang that was seized by the guards of then President Ferdinand Marcos 32 years ago has finally ended.

In a decision issued on Oct. 4, the Supreme Court ruled that the property

SC ORDERS/ A8


PA'NO NAMAN MABABAYARAN ANG BINIGAY NA PERWISYO?

'Desperate' protests top list of 27 online petitions

By Rita M. Gerona-Adkins
Contributor

WASHINGTON DC—THE BREADTH AND spontaneity of protests against the insult to Filipino doctors in the Sept. 30 episode of "Desperate Housewives" made feasible by YouTube and the facility of online communication have produced record-setting results.

As of Friday (Saturday in Manila), a total of 84,865 individuals have signed the online petition at http://www.petitiononline.com/FilABC/petition.html.

The petition against the perceived racial slur topped the list of 27 online petitions, outranking protests against violence in Burma and the alleged killings by Blackwater contract guards in Iraq.

In the flurry of passionate, and even an-

DESPERATE/ A4

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

B'laan women record dreams in woven mats

By Lina Sagaral Reyes
Contributor

SPECIAL REPORT

(Editor's note: Following is the second of a two-part series—published to mark Indigenous People's Day, or Columbus Day, yesterday—on attempts by women minorities to go back to their cultures in the midst of civil conflicts. The nongovernmental groups Progressio and Lumah Ma Di Laut: Center for Living Traditions made possible this report.)

MALAPATAN, SARANGANI—AMONG the B'laan in Southern Mindanao, a handwoven mat spread on the ground or the floor marks a sacred space.

"When you tell your story on a B'laan mat, you must tell the truth and must speak of what is true, what is authentic," says Rose Moranos Bantilan.

She says that on these mats, the B'laan believe that the good spirits will join the communing human beings. But one must keep faith or it will not work, she adds.

Mats like these are spread out, among other commonplace rituals, whenever and wherever Rose and leaders like her or tribal elders would come to mediate conflicts in the far-flung villages of Malapatan, Sarangani, in the past three years.

At a weaving center where mats of

B'LAAN/ A8

NORMA ABDULLA: Goes extra mile for building peace in Sulu. LYN RILLON

Grandma has simple, real recipes for peace

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THIS 77-YEAR-OLD RETIRED home economics teacher has come up with simple and real recipes for peace in her troubled little town in Sulu.

Wobbly from arthritis, Norma Abdulla was never fettered from helping couples resolve fights or calling the attention of authorities whenever there's trouble in her neighborhood.

"Peace should start with solving petty conflicts in the community, especially in the family so it will not escalate into a full-blown clash that could involve the entire town," Abdulla, convener of the first Muslim Women Peace Advocates in Sulu, told the INQUIRER on Friday.

For going the extra mile, which not many people her age would take, the Jolo native was named one of the 10 recipients of the annual Ulirang Nakatatanda awards by the nonprofit group, Coalition of Services of the Elderly Inc. (Cose).

She received her award on Sunday, the culmination of the celebration of the Filipino Elderly Week led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

In selecting the Tausug leader, Cose said Abdulla "is an icon of public service and dedication, highly respected and well-loved" in her community in Barangay San Raymundo, Jolo.

She was nominated by former Sen. Santanina Rasul, a pioneer of the Mindanao-based Muslim Women Peace Advo-

GRANDMA/ A8

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Northern and Central Luzon and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/08/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2

18 20

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

3 18 25 26 29 30

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Jpepa unconstitutional, legal experts tell Senate

WHAT'S INSIDE

GRAFT RAPS filed vs JDV, son on NBN deal /A16

VOTERS' LIST still contains 3M flying voters, says Comelec exec /A5

DENR CAN'T stop operations of mining firm in Sibuyan island /A7

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Jerome Aning

TWO CONSTITUTIONAL EXperts denounced the proposed Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) as unconstitutional.

In separate position papers before the Senate foreign relations committee hearing yesterday, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano and former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law Merlin Magallona said the treaty violated constitutional safeguards on national patrimony.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, agreed after the hearing that "Virtually, if we go by the objective analysis of these independent experts, Jpepa is dead."

The two experts said the Jpepa violated the Constitution because it gave the Japanese the right to exploit the country's marine resources when this is exclusively for Filipino nationals; it gave Japanese businesses the right to own land; and it assumed the power that rests solely on Congress to set and modify tariff rates.

Feliciano was in Washington and had his position paper read by lawyer Roberto San Juan.

Both experts said the treaty also took away the government's constitutional right to form a national development policy since government negotiators had given up certain reservations on laws to be formed in the future.

Unless the treaty is ratified by the Senate by a two-thirds vote, the Jpepa cannot take effect.

Interviewed by reporters, Santiago conceded that Jpepa could be unconstitutional on several constitutional grounds.

"As a constitutional law student, I am personally godsmacked by what the imminent constitutional law experts have said. They were very strong in their view that the Jpepa is unconstitutional. That is the most fundamental priority of all these hearings: is it constitutional or not," she went on.

Along with Santiago, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Edgardo Angara and Manuel Roxas II who were at the hearing were "unanimous" in concluding that Jpepa is unconstitutional.

Santiago described Feliciano as "the most famous international law expert for Asia and therefore in the world."

"In my personal view, when Justice Feliciano says something, that is no longer debatable," she said.

Roxas, chair of the Senate trade and commerce committee, said after five hearings the government has yet to show the country's gains and losses from the treaty.

"It's possible that we will recommend that it be renegotiated," he told reporters.

It was the Senate foreign relations committee's fifth and penultimate hearing yesterday. The government and the opposition groups have been given until Oct. 23 to submit all their position papers.

Former senator Wigberto Tañada, lead convenor of the Free Trade Alliance, was among those who argued against the pact.

Japan agency defends pact, cites benefits

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE JAPAN-PHILIPPINES Economic Partnership Agreement will bring benefits to the local economy, but the Senate must act soon as Tokyo is forging pacts with other countries that provide similar concessions, according to a Japanese trade agency.

In a report released yesterday, Japan External Trade Organization said that the agreement would allow the Philippines to have first crack in supplying Japan's rising need for more caregivers, as well as ensure market access for its agricultural products like mangoes.

Jetro Manila director for research Hiroshi Yoneyama, who prepared the report, said Japan's aging population would require more foreign nurses and caregivers.

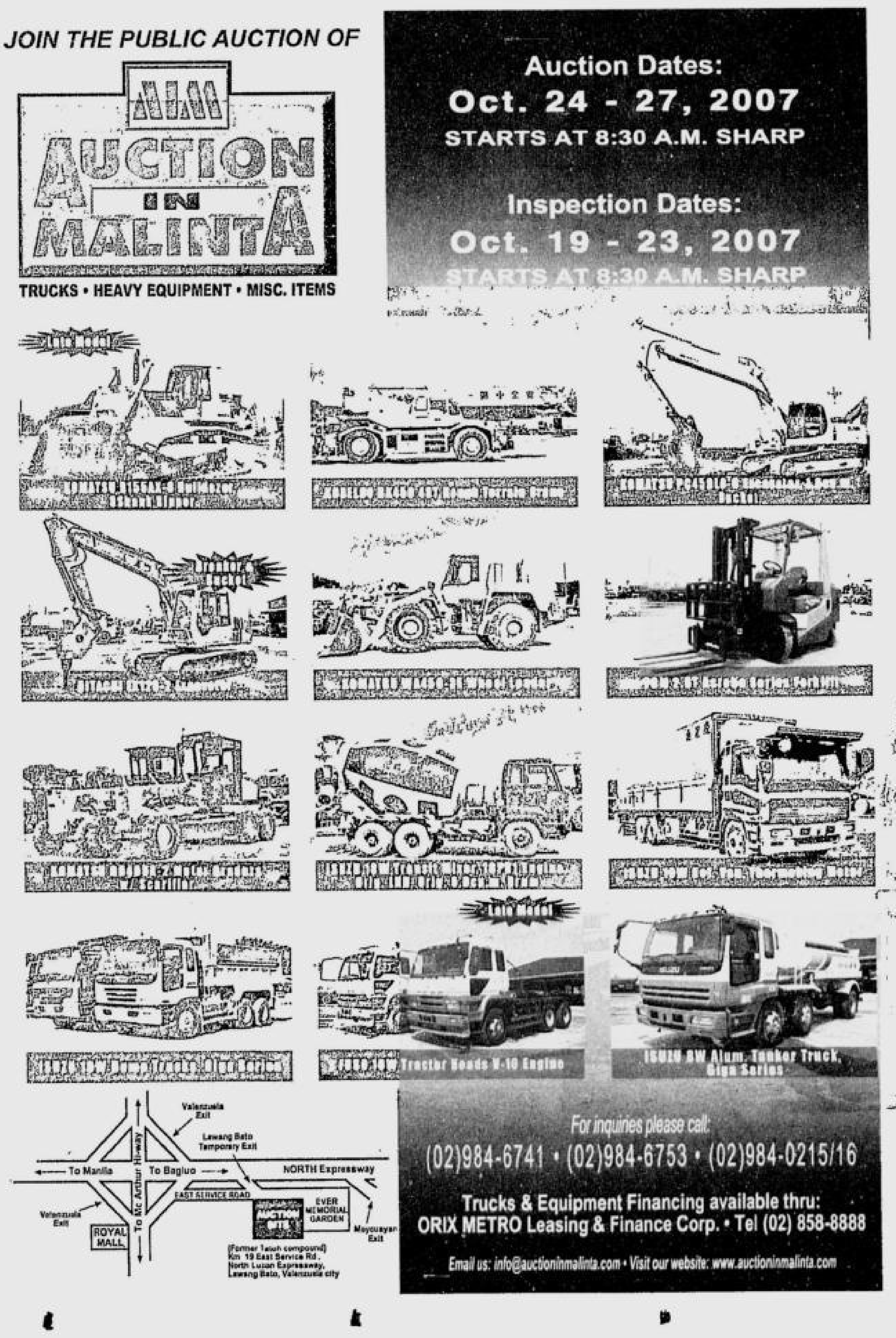
Citing data from Japan's Ministry of Health, Yoneyama said that, by 2014, Japan would need at least 1.56 million nurses and caregivers. This means that Japan would need to recruit at least 400,000 more people.

Adding pressure to the rising demand for health workers are the rising job offers from industrial sectors, he said.

In Japan, most care facilities for the aged are having difficulty hiring new employees, he said.

"To reduce the high turnover ratio in those facilities, the Japanese government is planning to raise the salary of caregivers," he added.

And even then if working conditions were improved, there may still be a shortage of caregivers, he said.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Valenzuela Exit
ROYAL MALL
Meycauayan Exit

FORMER President Joseph Estrada visits his ailing mother, Mary Ejercito, at the San Juan Medical Center Monday. REUTERS

Erap on mom: I leave everything in God's hands

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada refuses to give up on his mother, 102-year-old Mary Ejercito, who is in a comatose state.

The doctors have given Estrada the authority to decide on his ailing mother's fate, but the deposed leader yesterday remained firm on his earlier decision: He won't pull the plug of the machines which are keeping his mother alive.

"My conscience cannot take it so I've decided to leave everything in the hands of God. My brothers and sisters agree with me," said Estrada in a phone interview.

The Sandiganbayan's Special Division yesterday granted the former President, who was convicted on two counts of plunder last Sept. 12, a 10-hour court pass to visit his mother.

This is his fourth visit since Doña Mary was confined at the San Juan Medical Center on Aug. 10 due to pneumonia and hypertension. Her condition gradually deteriorated and she is now hooked up to a respirator to help her breathe.

The first time Estrada visited his mother was on Aug. 24.

He sought her blessing on Sept. 9 a few days before receiving the guilty verdict on his six-year-old plunder case.

The court granted him another daylight pass on Sept. 29 after family physician Dr. Lorenzo Hocson warned that Doña Mary's condition had worsened due to an infection.

The ousted leader, through his lawyers, last week pleaded before the antigraft court to allow him to stay in the hospital for at least three days so he could spend more time with his mother. But the court only granted him the usual 10-hour court pass.

Estrada said he would again request the antigraft court to allow him to visit his mother at least twice a week given her unstable condition.

"I hope the Sandiganbayan would allow me to sleep here [in the hospital in my next visit] because anything can happen to my mother," he said.

Estrada added that he was still hoping for a miracle.

Gonzalez now back home, eyes return to DOJ post

By Leila B. Salaverria

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ, who was discharged from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute yesterday after receiving a new kidney from his driver three weeks ago, said he intends to go back to the Department of Justice by December at the latest and has the President's backing.

The 76-year-old Gonzalez was allowed to return home to recuperate and get his strength back following his transplant, and he seems to be well on his way to recovery, according to NKTI director Enrique Ona.

Gonzalez himself said he was feeling better, although he has to be isolated at home to ensure he would not catch any illness. He said his visitors would have to wear a face mask when seeing him.

"It's exciting to have a new life … I'm looking forward to going back," he said in a phone interview.

He added that he was ready to face even his detractors.

Gonzalez said President Macapagal-Arroyo shares the sentiment that it would be good for him to work, even though his family would rather have him rest.

He said the President, who visited him at the NKTI before she left for the United States, believes that it would not be good for him to stop working considering his lifestyle before he underwent the transplant. "She thinks that if I retire, due to my active lifestyle, it might not be good for me," he said.

He also said the President was keeping the position of Justice Secretary open for him despite overtures from people who want his job. Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera is the acting justice secretary while Gonzalez is on leave.

UN: Drive vs poverty in Asia on

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE living in extreme poverty in the Asia-Pacific region is likely to be cut in half by 2015, but progress in other development goals is uneven, according to experts.

The region—home to 60 percent of the world's population—had over 1 billion people living on less than $1 day in 1990, but that number has now dropped to 641 million, according to the latest estimates in a joint report released yesterday by the Asian Development Bank and UN agencies.

China made the biggest headway, with one in three Chinese living in poverty in 1990, compared to one in 10 today, the report said.

But other countries were lagging behind, among them the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the report showed.

Among the region's 55 developing countries, only half had made their data available, the report said.

The region is also on course to attain universal education and achieve gender parity in schools by 2015, the target set at a summit of global leaders in 2000 with the aim of alleviating poverty, disease and hunger around the world.

The biggest failures, the report said, were in reducing child mortality, improving nutrition and maternal health and providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. *AP*

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RP stocks hit record high; peso closes 44.35 to $

From page A1

the PSE research department.

But the level yesterday was still the highest even if it was based on the old price weighted index method before 1990.

Incredible breakout

"It was an incredible breakout," said Jose Vistan of research director at AB Capital Securities.

"It seemed like the local market reacted more favorably than the Dow did after the US jobs data for September came out.

"That's because foreign funds are coming into emerging markets. It sent a message that the coast is clear—with recession concerns [in the US] not as bad as originally thought," Vistan said.

Brokerage firm Campos, Lanuza and Co. Inc. noted that stock indices in Jakarta, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Shenzhen also reached historical highs yesterday. *(See story in Business, Page B1.)*

Dealers said expectations that brisk consumer spending would keep Philippine economic growth at a heady pace also lifted share prices.

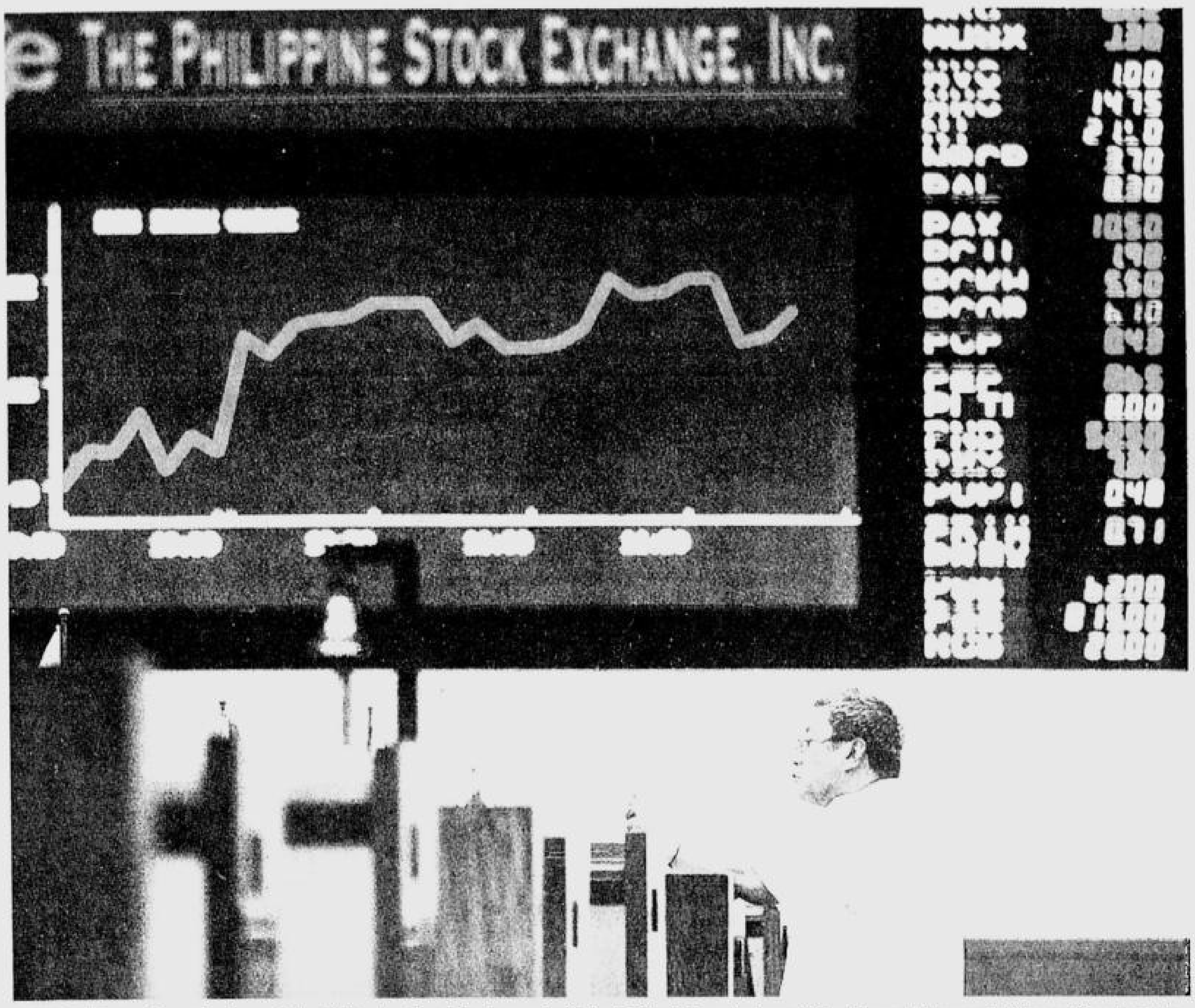
But they warned that with the market up 18 percent since the middle of September, investors are likely to cash in gains soon.

Interest rate cut

The BSP's fresh interest rate cut coupled with an upbeat economic outlook drew in more foreign funds to the local stock market, according to analysts.

A weak sentiment on the US dollar, anchored on expectations that the US Federal Reserve might cut interest rates some more, also provided support to the peso and to other Asian currencies.

The dollar's recent weakness was sparked by concerns about how the subprime mortgage crisis would affect the US economy, which prompted the Federal Reserve's half-point rate cut on Sept. 18.



THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.

A TRADER stands on the floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City. Asian stocks outside of Japan hit record highs on Monday, but the dollar headed lower after a solid US jobs report failed to dampen expectations for a further cut in the US interests rates. REUTERS

Subprime loans refer to borrowings by people with blemished or limited credit histories. The loans, which carry higher interest rates, often expose the lenders to higher credit risks.

"Because of the BSP cut in interest rates, there was room to upgrade investors' outlook on the equity markets," said Banco de Oro-EPCI Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

The BSP last week reduced its benchmark interest rates by 25 percentage points, easing its monetary policy for the second time this year, given a benign inflation outlook and following the US Federal Reserve's earlier 50-basis point cut.

The BSP benchmark rates—now at 5.75 percent for the overnight borrowing and 7.75 percent for the overnight lending—have dropped to their lowest levels in 15 years.

Just when investors thought that valuations in the stock market were becoming expensive, the BSP cut provided some more room for stock prices to go up, Ravelas said.

Remittances, IPOs

A downtrend in interest rates favors the stock market as it encourages a shift in investors' preference from fixed-income instruments like bank deposits and bonds to higher-yielding although higher-risk investments like stocks.

Remittances from overseas workers, which came in during the weekend, also contributed to the peso rally, said Roland Avante, Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines treasurer.

The thin corporate demand for dollars also gave the peso a strong momentum, Avante said.

"The IPOs (initial public offerings) slated in the next few months will even bring additional dollars and we might see a breach of 44:$1 even before October is over," he said.

Avante said there might be some corrections favoring the dollar along the way but the trend was still for a strong peso.

At a forum with exporters last week, the BSP said the peso would remain strong against the US dollar, whether exporters like it or not, but disadvantaged sectors could tap a wide array of hedging tools to reduce their foreign exchange risks.

Aside from the exporters whose earnings are reduced whenever the dollar weakens, families of overseas Filipino workers and the tourism sector are among those adversely affected by a strong peso. One needs more dollars to buy the same amount of pesos.

Strong peso not BSP policy

"A strong peso is not the BSP policy. Our policy has always been and will continue to be for a market-determined exchange rate, with occasional scope for official action on our part to smoothen excessive volatilities in the exchange rate. This we do whether the rate is going up or going down," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

A trader in Manila said the BSP "started (intervening) at 44.50 and then down at 44.38, trying to temper the abrupt appreciation of the peso [yesterday]."

"If they allow the 44.35 or 44.30 levels to be broken, we will see 44," he said.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., said the stock market was taking its cue from Wall Street after the latest US jobs data pointed to revisions in August.

"Instead of a decline, jobs actually grew in August and continued to grow in September. This sent the message that the US was not headed for a recession," he said.

The US economy added 110,000 jobs in September, stronger than the 100,000 that analysts were projecting.

Revised figures for August also showed a gain of 89,000 jobs, a reversal from the earlier estimate of a loss of 4,000 US jobs.

A recession in the world's largest economy and the country's biggest trade partner could send financial markets tumbling and global economies on a tailspin.

"We have been expecting market weakness last week but have been met only with market strength. At this point, the market must show a healthy correction in order to show signs of sustainability," Campos, Lanuza and Co. said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led gainers, rising 5.3 percent to a new record finish of P3,265. Rival Globe Telecoms Inc. gained 3.1 percent to P1,670. With reports from AFP, Reuters and AP

Hackers attack Neda website

From page A1

The drug for erectile dysfunction triggered jokes that the high growth rate registered by the country's gross domestic product (GDP) could be powered by Viagra.

GDP, the value of goods produced and services rendered in the country, grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter, the highest annual growth rate in 21 years.

Clicking on the links led to either pornographic pictures or a dead link that says the request could not be processed.

A Neda staff said the "Past Events" page might not have been checked recently by IT personnel because it was not updated as often as the other pages.

Bribery offer

The hacking of the Neda website came a week after the controversy surrounding the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network project peaked.

On Sept. 26, Romulo Neri disclosed at a Senate hearing that he was offered early this year a P200-million bribe by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. in exchange for his endorsement of the proposal of China's ZTE Corp.

Abalos denied the allegation of Neri, the director general of Neda until July, but the former resigned as Comelec chair on Oct. 1.

ZTE bagged the contract on April 21, but President Macapagal-Arroyo was forced to cancel the deal on Oct. 2 following the allegations of bribery and overpricing that also linked her husband.

The Supreme Court earlier issued a temporary restraining order on the NBN project.

Back to normal

Yesterday morning, Neda Director General Augusto Santos told the INQUIRER that he would ask his staff about the hacking.

Later in the afternoon, he said the staff had fixed the problem. True enough, the events page was back to normal and was no longer accessible through the front page.

Santos declined to comment on the defacement.

Neda later dismissed reports that its website had been hacked and turned into a pornographic site.

Abused

However, the agency admitted an "abuse" of a certain area where public postings were allowed and unmoderated, allowing someone to play a dirty joke.

Daniel Pabellon, Neda assistant director general, said the abuse happened in the portion of the website where the public was allowed to freely post announcement of events.

But he said his staff had already removed the indecent data parked on the "Events" portion of the website.

"It's something free and everybody can use it. Even an elementary student can post there because it's very user-friendly," Pabellon said.

Automatic posting banned

Neda never thought of screening the items posted by the public in the past, Pabellon said, because it was not compelled to do so. But now, he said the agency would no longer allow automatic posting.

"We trusted people because it's for their own convenience. They could announce events there, but this was abused. Some people can really be immature," he said.

But he gave assurance of no breach of security on the website unlike the hacking that hit government websites abroad, including those in the United States in the past.

Asked whether Neda could track the culprit, Pabellon said the matter was under investigation.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 7 ISSUE, an obituary on Page A15—"Conrado Dayrit, Dr. Coconut; 88"—misstated that the late Conrado Dayrit had five sons and one daughter. Dayrit had seven sons and one daughter, namely: Manuel, Conrado III, Fabian, Eduardo, Rafael, Ignacio, Regina and Francis.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 8 ISSUE, an article on Page A6—"Bro. Eddie dares gov't not to suppress truth"—erroneously attributed to Chief Justice Reynato Puno the quote : "*Nasira na ang pagkakaisa ng Kongreso at ng Senado.* But I believe *hindi nila* (judiciary) *tayo pababayaan.*" The statement was made by Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

'Desperate' protests top list of 27 online petitions

From page A1

gry comments circulated through e-mail, letters, phone calls and online petitions, the disparaging remark about Philippine medical schools, albeit made through a fictitious television character, raised a sense of irony from some observers.

"Filipino doctors with training from Philippine medical schools have for so long supplied health care throughout the US, without which the bulk and quality of medical care here would not be easily maintained," said Dr. Alex Fangonil, immediate past president of the umbrella organization Association of Philippine Physicians in America (Appa) and urologist in the metropolitan Washington area.

"Of course, there is still prejudice out there," he added, acknowledging the comment as an insult.

Harvard and the Filipino

Of further interest, especially to ABC and its search for dramatic diversity materials, is the fact that Harvard University's Medical School was first integrated in 1937 by a Filipino, Dr. Fe del Mundo, who, as a scholar admitted to the prestigious medical school for some graduate courses, forgot to remind the then all-male department such irrelevancy as the fact that she is female.

Jon Melegrito, communications director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Naffaa), on Friday said that ABC had taken immediate steps to wipe out the offending scene from all DVD editions and rebroadcasts. "This means that future airing of this program will not include this offensive scene," he said.

Despite the brief apology from ABC and assurances that the network would remove the controversial scene from future broadcasts and DVD editions, the INQUIRER reported that a group of Filipino-American doctors were planning to file a class action suit against the network.

Largest audience

The controversial scene had the character Susan, played by actress Teri Hatcher, asking her doctor: "OK, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

The Sept. 30 premiere showing of the fall drama-comedy series raked in an average of 19 million viewers, the series' largest-ever audience, topping other television favorites with a very wide margin, according to the Nielsen report.

The comment impugning the quality of medical schools in the Philippines and, in effect, the abilities of Philippine-trained physicians practicing in the United States, was viewed as uninformed, derogatory or racist by Filipino-American advocacy organizations and individuals, as well as by the Philippine Embassy and its consular offices, and government officials in the Philippines.

RP No. 2 supplier of MDs

According to the American Physicians Association (APA), based on Census 2005, there were 19,000 Philippine-trained practicing physicians in the United States.

A study made by APA also shows that the Philippines ranks second to India as the top supplier of doctors fulfilling the demand in the United States, and outranks all other countries in supply of dentists and nurses.

Rules and procedures may have been changed, but there is still a constant need to increase the underserved populations in America's rural areas, as well as the burgeoning urban areas, plus the need to fill the supply of medical and paramedical personnel in the war fronts of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Centers of excellence

As to the question of quality of Philippine medical schools, according to the International Medical Education Quarterly Vol. 1, No. 2 Summer 2003, "medical schools in the Philippines have been the source of a large number of physicians who come to the United States for graduate medical education and the practice of medicine."

The publication further notes: "Currently, there are 32 Philippine medical schools listed in the International Medical Education Directory (Imed), 30 of which are operating and two of which are closed. Three of the currently operating medical schools have been identified by the Philippine Commission on Higher Education as 'Centers of Excellence' and one as a 'Center of Development' based on their track record, performance in the licensure examination and excellent faculty."

The Centers of Excellence are at the University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas and the Cebu Institute of Medicine. The Center of Development is at Xavier University.

(The writer is based in Washington DC.)

REVELATION BY POLL EXEC

'Voters' list still has 3M flying voters'

By Beverly T. Natividad

SOME THREE MILLION FLYING VOTERS still mar the Commission on Elections (Comelec) voters' list with less than a month to go till the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) polls, according to a ranking official of the Comelec.

Amid debates in Congress on whether the village elections should be held at the end of the month, the Comelec official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the poll body had not been able to rid its voters' list of flying voters due to time constraints.

An analysis of voters data showed that there are about 3 million double and multiple registrants or flying voters in the list, the official said. This happens when voters transfer residences or when voters intentionally register in many precincts.

"The truth is *hindi na kami nakapag*-deactivate *ng mga* registered voters [double and multiple registrants] *kasi kulang na kami sa panahon* (The truth is, we weren't able to deactivate registered voters because we didn't have enough time)," the official said.

He said records of the Comelec's Election Barangay Affairs Department (Ebad) showed that there are around 51 million registered voters for the coming Oct. 29 polls, a big discrepancy from the expected turnout for the barangay and SK elections.

The official explained that the registered voters in the local and congressional elections last May 2007 was pegged at 45 million. With 3 million new registrants, the expected turnout for the barangay and SK polls should total only 48 million voters.

Acting Comelec chair Resurreccion Borra neither confirmed nor denied the existence of flying voters in the present voters' list, saying he did not want to "mislead the public" with wrong information.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Borra said "nothing has been elevated to [his] level yet."

He added that the Comelec's Information and Technology department handles the list of voters.

According to the IT department, their detailed records of voters, which consist of the backup list of all election officers, was just 60 percent complete.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
PACIFIC GOODWILL BUSINESS CONSULTING INC. Unit 15-D Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Keun Uk Lim Korean	Manager
PACIFIC GOODWILL BUSINESS CONSULTING INC. Unit 15-D Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Gihyun Lee (w/o Gu) Korean	Assistant Manager
WISEMEN TRAVEL & TOURS CONSULTANCY 1234 Bambang St., Tondo, Manila	Seung Ho Oh Korean	Operation Manager
CIRCUS BAKED DELIGHTS 88 Eugenio St., Sarmiento Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City	Frank Sylvain Merot French	Sales Executive
COACH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SIMPLIFICATION INC. 8M Concho Gonzales Bldg., Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	James Peter Nicholls New Zealand	Technical Consultant
PHILIPPINE HSKENT INC. 2815-B Daang Hari St., United II Subd., Paranaque City	Soojin Lee Korean	General Manager
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & INNOVATION CONSULTING, INC. 10/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City	Angelica Dawn Driskell American	Corporate Business Trainer
TARLII MINING CORPORATION Unit 1206 Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Leyuan Liang Chinese	Administration Manager
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TARLII MINING CORPORATION Unit 1206 Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jie Mi Chinese	Project Manager
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LINK2SUPPORT, INC. 5/F Techno Plaza One Bldg., Orchard Road, Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City	Youngkug Son Korean	Korean-Product Support Specialist
BROOKSLAKE GARMENT MFG. CORP. Block C, #9 Porong Road, Brgy. Punturin, Valenzuela City	Yan Zhang Chinese	Finance Manager for Overseas Export
EAGLE'S FORTUNE, INCORPORATED No. 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Jianbo Wang Chinese	Supervisor
EAGLE'S FORTUNE, INCORPORATED No. 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Dongjing Cai Chinese	Operation Manager
KOMAX TRANS & TOURS INC. Romilia Cmpd. Int., Dr. A. Santos Ave., Paranaque City	Inhwa Yeu (wife of KIM) Korean	Tour Operator
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. 21/F Tower 2, Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Qingzhu Meng Chinese	Chinese-Language Sports Trader
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EAGLE'S FORTUNE, INCORPORATED No. 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Weihuang Cai Chinese	Operation Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI–October 9, 2007)

Imelda: No regrets, no shame

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos at her apartment in Makati: I have nothing to be ashamed of. AFP

By Karl Wilson

IMELDA MARCOS GLIDES across the highly polished wooden floor of her modest apartment with a carefully manicured hand outstretched, and apologizes for being late.

At 78, the former first lady of the Philippines still carries herself with the style and grace that once captivated world leaders from the Kremlin to the White House.

The eyes sparkle and a quick scan of her face shows not a wrinkle or line despite her years.

Imelda points out that the dress she is wearing is made from cloth that cost P150 and on her feet are a modest pair of slippers priced at around P200.

"And no, I don't have a wardrobe full of shoes," she says, referring to the 1,000-plus pairs of shoes left behind when the Marcoses were forced into exile 21 years ago as a million people took to the streets demanding an end to the excesses and calling for a new start.

Imelda says she has no regrets.

"I know what people have said about the Marcoses and about the billions of dollars supposedly taken out of the country," she says.

"But here we are 21 years on and where is it all? Not here," she says, looking around a room filled with mementos of another time and another place.

Her 34th-floor apartment in Makati commands sweeping views of the city she once presided over as governor.

On the walls of the cream-colored sitting room hang numerous paintings including a Picasso. Across the room sits a life-sized bust of her husband Ferdinand Marcos, who died while in exile in Hawaii in 1989. Above it in a glass case are his medals collected during his years as a resistance fighter against the Japanese during World War II, some of which have been disputed.

Famed photos of the first couple with some of the world's most powerful leaders of the late 20th century vie for space with books on art, architecture and the Philippines on the coffee tables, chairs and piano.

Comparisons

At the time, the US media drew comparisons with the assassinated John F. Kennedy and his wife Jackie, dubbing the Marcoses the "Kennedys of Asia."

Imelda smiles at the comparison, saying: "You know Jackie and I were both born in 1929."

Asked if she would have changed anything, Imelda says: "Yes, I would have changed the country's name. Why should this country carry the name of a Spanish king who died of syphilis?"

Even when she was bundled aboard a US military helicopter on that night back in February 1986 and flown into exile with her husband and family she felt no bitterness.

"I remember it well," she says.

No betrayal

"The US ambassador Stephen Bosworth called Ferdinand and asked if we were ready to leave the palace. None of us was prepared. Two helicopters circled Malacañang Park just across the river from the palace. It was night and they had no lights.

"Did we feel betrayal? No. Ferdinand believed in America. He believed in freedom, justice and democracy until the day he died."

Imelda laughs at the suggestion she flew out with crates of gold, jewelry and art treasures.

"I had my two daughters, Irene and Imee, milk and diapers for their children. All Marcos took was the flag and his proclamation as president. He was realistic."

"I have nothing to hide and I have nothing to be ashamed of," she said.

"Everything I did—whether it was building shelters for the poor, hospitals, roads or just trying to make places more beautiful by planting trees—I did it for the Filipino people. Not for Imelda.

To many of her critics, however, she will always be associated with a kleptocracy that bled the Philippines dry.

Even the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) set up in 1986 to recover the hidden Marcos wealth cannot say with any degree of certainty just how much was siphoned off. Figures range from $2 billion to $10 billion.

The late Haydee Yorac, a former head of the PCGG, once told Agence France Presse in an interview that no one really knows how much was taken. She said many of the case notes and files had "simply disappeared" over the years.

The most that has been recovered in the 21 years the PCGG has been in existence was during Yorac's watch, when $683 million was found hidden in a Swiss bank account owned by Marcos.

None of the so-called Marcos cronies lost anything and most of them have seen their businesses flourish in the years since Marcos was thrown out—a fact that has not been lost on Imelda or her three grown children, who are now asking for some of the money back.

"You know, there were 901 cases filed against the Marcoses. Today we have less than 80 left. Not one of them has been successful either here or abroad."

"Time will tell whether the Marcoses were crooks or not. My conscience is clear. None of the cases filed against me has stood up in court."

Imelda leans across a coffee table and retrieves a Christie's catalogue from 1992 relating to the sale of more than 180 paintings the Marcoses had collected and put on display in the national art gallery in Manila.

"All of them, including some of the old masters, went for $5 million," she says. "Marcos' silver collection went the same year for the same price. I know one piece alone was worth that much.

"The paintings and silver were given away. So who are the thieves?"

"Look at me. Am I dripping with diamonds and gold? Of course not. That was all taken from me. I dress modestly and yes, I like shoes. What woman doesn't? *AFP*

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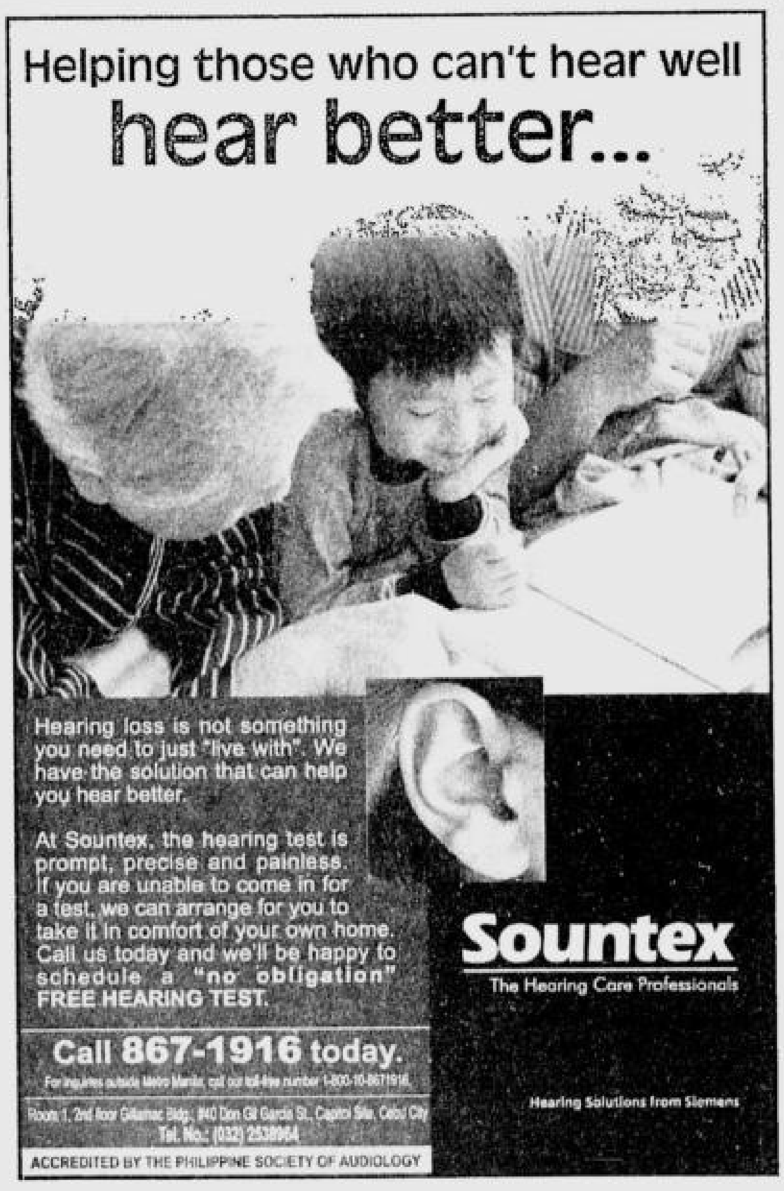

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The *Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)* through its Corporate Operating Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php6,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Supply and Delivery of Billing Meters for Mactan Economic Zone*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs), certified copy of Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration, and proof of enrolment with the e-FPS from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Billing Meters for Mactan Economic Zone.

Bidders should have completed a single similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC within the last three (3) years and met the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM on 02-15 October 2007.

Interested bidders must submit their LOIs, certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and e-FPS enrolment not later than 15 October 2007 at the address given below and secure the complete set of Bidding Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 16 October 2007 at 2:00 PM at the address given below.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 2:00 PM of 08 November 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in amount of not less than 1% of the ABC specific to the line item. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on 08 November 2007, 2:00 PM at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

In case any of the above date/s is declared as a non-working holiday it will automatically be rescheduled on the next working day (same time).

Delivery is required within ninety (90) calendar days from date of receipt of Notice to Proceed.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI–Oct. 1 & 9, 2007)

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Slain Navy Seals honored with Gold Cross

By Nikko Dizon

SANGLEY POINT, CAVITE City—Eight months pregnant with their first child, Marilou Peralta said she lost "the center" of her life after her husband Ruel, a Navy Seal, was killed along with three other comrades in an encounter with alleged Abu Sayyaf members in Lanjil Island, Basilan, last week.

"My life revolved around him. He was the center of my life," Peralta, a 29-year-old teacher, tearfully said in Filipino.

The irony that the first time she and Ruel were at the La Naval Church at the Naval Base for their wedding last June was not lost on Marilou.

"This is our second time at this church but he's there," Marilou said, looking at her husband's coffin.

She promised Ruel she will take good care of his "junior" after an ultrasound test showed that they were having a baby boy.

And one day, too, Marilou will certainly show their son a little gold medal awarded to his father, to remind him of his bravery and gallantry in fighting Abu Sayyaf terrorists as a member of the elite Navy Special Operations Group (Navsog), formerly the Special Warfare and Action Group (SWAG) and the equivalent of the US Navy Seals.

The Navsog's Peralta, Jay Soguitan, Michael Abrio, and Joe Vincent Sistoza were yesterday posthumously awarded the Gold Cross Medal—the third highest military award—by President Macapagal-Arroyo at noon at the church where their bodies lay in state.

With the President were Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., and Navy chief, Vice Admiral Rogelio Calunsag.

The fallen soldiers' wives received their medals in their behalf, and gently laid the medals on their coffins. Sistoza's wife is also pregnant.

Two-year-old Angel Abrio drank from her milk bottle as she stared at the President briefly speak to her mother, Rhea, by her father's coffin.

The President also gave Soguitan's wife a brief hug. Ms Arroyo herself pinned a medal and promoted Soguitan last January as part of the team that neutralized Abu Sayyaf leader, "Black Killer," in Tawi-Tawi.

A photo of the President pinning a medal on Soguitan was placed atop the soldier's coffin.

The President has also increased financial assistance to families of soldiers killed in action from P100,000 to P250,000, military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, said.

The families of the four Navy seals each received P100,000 from Mrs. Arroyo yesterday, "with the balance of P150,000 to follow," Bacarro said in a text message.

"The AFP has also been receiving donations from civilian intended for our casualties," he said.

The four Navy seals were killed last Oct. 1 in an encounter with alleged bandits led by Abu Sayyaf "sub-leader" Abdulrajak Sadikal in Lanjil, an island in the northeast of mainland Basilan.

The Navy last week described Sadikal's group as "pirates and lawless elements."

Yesterday, it positively identified the group as the Abu Sayyaf.

Sadikal's main link to the terrorist group was his brother, Faisal, a known ASG member, said Vice Admiral Emilio Marayag, heads the Naval Forces in Western Mindanao.

"In Basilan, it's difficult to recognize the Abu Sayyaf from the non-Abu Sayyaf lawless elements. We have an unconfirmed report that Sadikal's group aided those who ambushed the Marines last July 10," Marayag said.

Teachers rap cop dispersal

By Allison W. Lopez

A GROUP OF TEACHERS YESTERDAY gave failing marks to Manila cops who allegedly manhandled some of their members during a forced rally dispersal on World Teacher's Day last week.

"I felt I was raped. I was really angry after that incident... we didn't expect the police to be so rude to us on World Teacher's Day itself," said public-school teacher Jane Farinas, who cried while narrating how she and other educators were broken up by Station 5 police led by Supt. Rogelio "Jojo" Rosales.

As evidenced by pictures and footage taken by mediamen, part of Farinas' breasts were indecently exposed after a "tug-of-war" between cops and the Action and Solidarity for the Empowerment of Teachers (Assert), which marked the World Teacher's Day with a protest at Plaza Salamanca along T.M. Kalaw and Taft Avenue on Friday.

Some 300 of its members from the National Capital Region and Central Luzon were forcibly dispersed while holding a program around noon despite an apparent endorsement from Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim to rally.

Rosales, however, told the INQUIRER that it was the rallyists who became "physical" first.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 9, 2007
27th Week in Ordinary Time
Denis and Companions / John Leonardi

1st Reading:	Jon 3:1-10
Gospel:	Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he entered a village and a woman called Martha welcomed him to her house. She had a sister named Mary who sat down at the Lord's feet to listen to his words. Martha, meanwhile, was busy with all the serving and finally she said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the serving?"

But the Lord answered, "Martha, Martha, you worry and are troubled about many things, whereas only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken away from her."

Commentary

Again Jonah is told to go to Nineveh and this time he does. He walks for days crying out for them to repent, and they do! From the greatest to the least they begin to do penance and ask God's forgiveness. God sees their repentance and so he does not harm them. What if we all repented from the evil that we do—disrespect for others, leaving the homeless on the streets, not providing people with health care and nutrition, constructing bombs, nuclear weapons, and land mines to murder people? We are called to repent—not just a person here or there—but all of us in every church and synagogue and mosque and temple.

Martha welcomes Jesus to her home and prepares to feed him, while her sister listens to Jesus' word. She, like the lawyer in the previous story, wants Jesus to justify her actions and make her sister do the same. But like the lawyer, Martha and all of us must learn that the better part is to accompany those who have been the victims of violence and to care for those who are broken and murdered because they have spoken the truth—as the good Samaritan did to his enemy and as Jesus will do for all of us.

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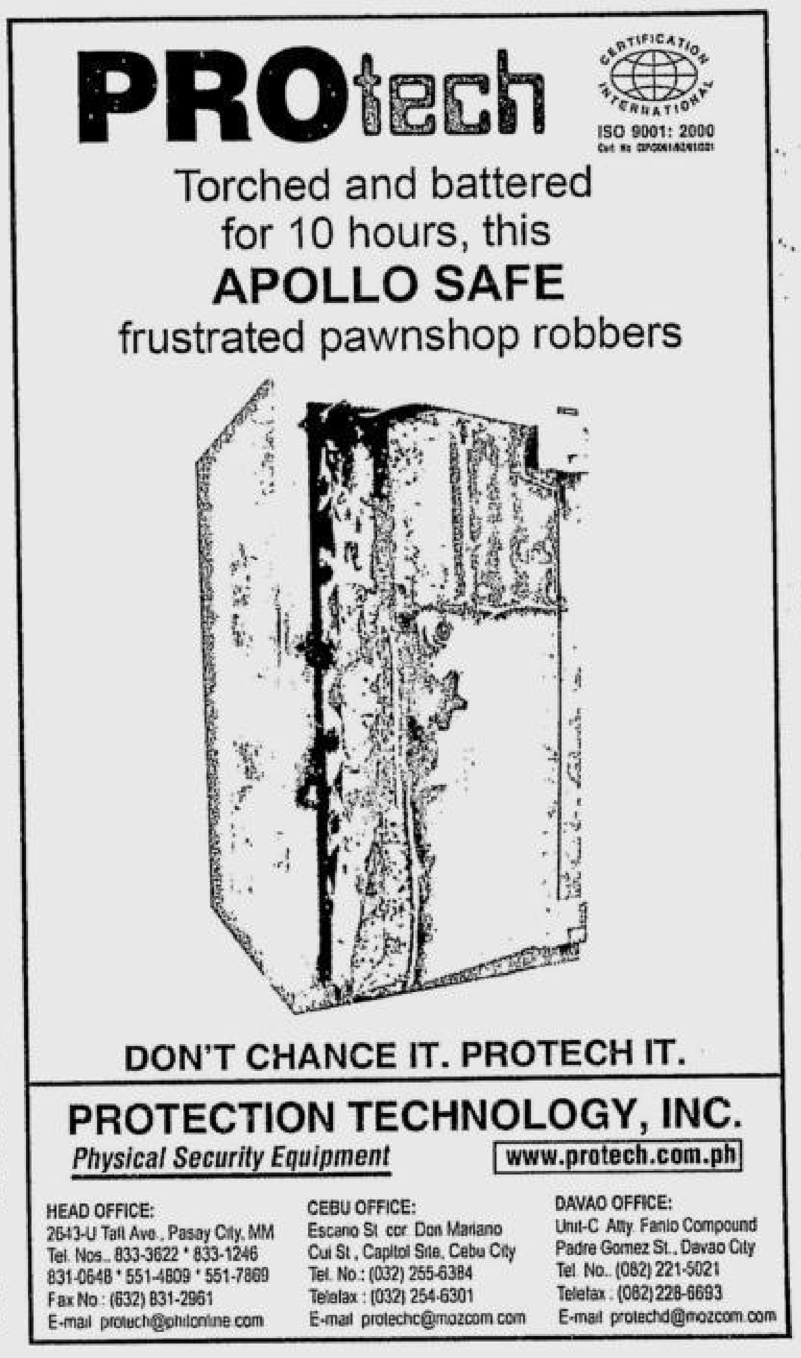
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PRODEMOCRACY DIE-IN
Filipino protesters shout slogans during a "die-in" in front of the Burmese Embassy in Makati City. The demonstration was held in solidarity with prodemocracy activists who are the targets of a military crackdown in Burma. AP

B'laan women record dreams ...

From page A1

resplendent colors are displayed and serve as temporary walls, Rose tells her story—the return of a wayfaring native among those displaced in a region engulfed in a separatist war.

It was close to evening, and Rose and the other women members of the Li Libon di Lansang (Women of Lansang) insisted on wearing their ceremonial clothes of intricately embroidered, sequined and appliqued cotton in order to honor the occasion of storytelling.

In 2001, Rose became involved in conflict management and transformation seminars through the Mindanao Peace Movement. Her uncle, the clan chief Fulong Pepito Moranos, recruited her.

Mediation is, for her, a way of giving back to her people a new-found energy and strength after a hysterectomy.

Besides, she says it was her initiation into the responsibilities of being a clan leader. "Fulong and the other leaders are now getting old, and so I realized it is our generation's turn to assume leadership," Rose says.

Nothing left standing

According to Rose, the hilly village of Lasang in Malapatan was deserted in the late 1970s after it became the battleground between the warring paramilitary cults, Ilaga and Black Shirts. "Nothing was left standing except the chapel of a Protestant mission," she recalls.

The village was resettled on Christmas Eve of 1982, about 25 years ago.

But Rose only came back 13 years ago. After her village was burned, her family stayed in the town center and she joined her uncle Pepito's household when Fulong's daughter died in her teens.

She had gone to college in Davao for two years and later travelled across Mindanao.

She became a migrant worker, street smart and mellowed as she sought employment in department stores and households in order to send her younger siblings to school and provide for the daily needs of her parents who were subsistence farmers.

She married late, at the age of 35, a few months after her father died.

"I have been everywhere, in Davao, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, and I met a lot of men and, ironically, I still found my lifetime partner here in my own village," Rose says.

As the only unmarried daughter, the filial duties of caregiving to old parents brought her back. "I was asked to return home and take care of my ailing father. And then my mother got sick, too," she recalls.

Recording dreams

Rose takes great pride in her latest endeavor now, leading a group of women whose hands record dream-stories through weaving mats of *romblon* and buri.

"Every design is unique as each weaver dreams different designs. Some are like waves of the sea, others are like the skies full of stars while others look like the cornfields," she says.

She learned how to weave from her mother and grandmother who also taught her how to conjure designs.

Last year, Rose was inspired by a program for indigenous people initiatives by the local government.

"I was urged to organize the group by someone from the governor's office. When I look back, I remember, we talked about it in snatches, whispering to each other, at a wake," she says.

Preserving tradition

Her group has just launched a project to revive and preserve the mat-weaving tradition and craft among the village women in Lansang. The weavers number 18, mostly old widows. Rose is the youngest at 46.

"So few of the younger women are keen on taking up the craft as the mat takes too long to make, and those who can afford it go to college to become professionals," she notes.

Her group recently got a grant which allowed each weaver a fellowship allowance of P600 per month so they can concentrate on their unique design and get all the necessary materials. A single mat (3 feet by 6 feet) takes at least a month to make.

Rose looks at activism, meaning her involvement in conflict mediation and management, as the other side of her public sphere as a leader.

Conflict management

"I am new to activism, if you can call what I do now in conflict management as such. It is a newly learned skill and it made me aware of the struggles of my own B'laan tribe and the importance of speaking out for our rights," Rose says.

She had earlier resisted the violence-prone activism of the youth of her age because she saw no hope in this. Memories of her village burning persist.

But this is different, she says. Conflict management espouses nonviolent change and openness to working with those who are not from the tribe but who are also indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

"It is my turn now," Rose says. "And I hope my daughter will continue what I am doing and even would be able to achieve more. We are telling her to become a lawyer. Imagine, she will be the first woman lawyer and she is a B'laan."

B'LAAN elders in their native garb. More life stories are spread on their mats. FILE PHOTO

Grandma has simple, real recipes for peace

From page A1

cates (MWPA).

Abdulla's spirit for community service was kindled at the Sulu Trade School (now Hadji Butu School of Arts and Trade), where she taught teenagers to pickle food, sew handicrafts, crochet and stitch clothes for 16 years.

She was then 22 years old and a fresh graduate of the Centro Escolar University (CEU) with a degree in Home Economics. Later, she earned a master's degree in Home Economics and a doctoral degree in Education from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and CEU.

As part of the Sulu Trade School's outreach program, Abdulla visited homes of poor people, dropped by the public plaza in her hometown, and gave cooking lessons to impoverished wives and mothers to boost livelihood opportunities.

This was in the 1950s when Jolo was a peaceful town, she said, and had yet to worry about the Abu Sayyaf bandits, the armed Moro rebels or the tension between Moro separatists and the military.

Rising from ranks

Over time, Abdulla rose from the ranks and became president of the Sulu State College.

Meanwhile, the violence in neighboring strife-torn districts pervaded Abdulla's hometown. Suddenly, the situation called for more than just outreach programs. Evacuees were seeking shelter in the schools of Jolo.

"Now and then, people would leave their homes, go somewhere, and come back. It was really hard," she said, recalling her own experience in 1974 when Jolo became embroiled in a shooting war with armed rebels.

The commercial district was burned down. Abdulla and her family, along with other residents, had to find shelter in a hospital and later in a school.

Escape to Jolo

"Because of escalating conflicts, people from outlying communities and municipalities would flee to Jolo where there was electricity and drinking water," Abdulla said.

The modest town, flanked by restive Patikul and Indanan, gradually became crowded and the sidewalks teemed with hawkers, she said.

"Before, you can walk the streets even at midnight. Now you can't. The stores close at 5 p.m. Even drugstores close early because they are scared of extortionists," Abdulla said.

The challenge

The opportunity to address the mounting restlessness in her hometown came seven years after her retirement.

In 2003, Abdulla was tapped to join the core group of the MWPA in Sulu whose mission was to gather and train women leaders in the barangay, and help solve petty disturbances, such as land conflicts, crimes and family troubles.

She accepted the job, despite her weakening knees, numbing of hands and graying hair.

"I'm the oldest in the group, but I accepted the job because I still think I can contribute to peace-building. I am glad not one of my six sons has reminded me that I am old and that I should be resting," said the spunky grandmother of 20 grandchildren.

Secrets of peace

Peace-building begins with simple acts like "never insult unlettered people so you don't earn their ire," Abdulla said.

A small misunderstanding must be settled as soon as possible, a little help from someone in authority would not hurt, and asking questions should be encouraged, she added.

After assembling the first group of peace advocates in Jolo in 2003, she set out for Indanan and Patikul to expand the group's network.

"We didn't go there to stop the war. We went there to teach them how to prevent conflicts in the household level. Because if you leave that unsettled, it could escalate until the whole community is involved," Abdulla said.

With the culture of vendetta common among warring Moro clans, a simple spat could easily become a full-blown feud or a "*rido*," she added.

Peacekeeper

After four years with the peace group, Abdulla has helped resolve a number of family crises—from a wife complaining about her husband's infidelity to a husband objecting to his wife working outside the home.

Her secret? Patience and a willingness to listen.

After a shooting incident a couple of years ago near the mosque in the barangay, relatives of the victim came to her and asked if she could talk with the authorities into setting up an outpost to curb violence in the area.

Abdulla saw the mayor herself, who immediately responded to the request.

Age doesn't matter

When a boy was killed in Indanan after watching television in a neighbor's home early this year, the council immediately wrote a resolution asking the authorities to investigate.

Abdulla herself met with the brigade commander, believing this was the only way to address lawlessness in the area.

These gestures may be paltry in a troubled place, but Abdulla believes such actions will create ripples leading to a long-term peace someday.

"To me, age doesn't matter if you want to do something. You don't have to be young to serve," she said.

SC orders Malacañang to pay back rentals to 90-year-old woman

From page A1

that was used as an office by Malacañang and became home to Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos after the ouster of Marcos in 1986 should be returned to Mendoza.

It was the same house where, according to the late columnist Louie Beltran, Aquino hid under her bed while a coup was in progress in 1987—an accusation she denied and for which the newsman was slapped a libel suit, later dismissed by the Court of Appeals.

The high court ruled that the Office of the President should pay rent of P20,000 per month since July 1975, plus 6-percent interest and attorney's fees, to Mendoza, the declared owner of the 4,924.6-square-meter property.

Justice delayed

The tribunal directed Malacañang "to pay its obligation with reasonable dispatch" so that "simple justice, while perhaps delayed, will have its day."

"Private respondent is in the twilight of her life, being now over 90 years of age. Any delay in the implementation of this disposition would be a bitter cut," the tribunal said.

It said the Arlegui property was seized by the Marcos martial law regime and a new certificate of title conjured without the owner legally canceling the original title.

The Palace will comment after reading the Supreme Court's decision, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said last night.

Mind-boggling

In its ruling, the high tribunal nullified the decision of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Vicente Hidalgo to award Mendoza P1.48 billion in rent and P143.6 million in just compensation, saying the amount was "mind-boggling" and excessive.

The Supreme Court pointed out that the assessed value of the Arlegui property was P2.38 million.

It dismissed the solicitor general's contention that the Manila court had erred when it tried Mendoza's case without giving the government the opportunity to present its defense.

The high tribunal said the OSG had been declared in default for its failure to participate during the trial.

"The petitioner may have indeed been deprived of such hearing, but this does not mean that its right to due process had been violated," it said. "The handling solicitors simply squandered the republic's opportunity to be heard."

House vacated out of fear

Mendoza filed a suit with the Manila RTC in 1999 to nullify the supposed deed of sale for her property in July 1975, which led to the issuance of a new transfer certificate of title (TCT) showing that it now belonged to the government.

She had said that in July 1975, armed men, who identified themselves as belonging to the Presidential Security Group, forcibly entered her house and ordered her to hand over the original TCT for the property.

Out of fear, she added, she followed the order and vacated the property. ***With a report from Christine O. Avendaño***

DENR can't stop Sibuyan mining firm

By TJ Burgonio

A MINING CONSORTIUM, UNDER fire for the killing of an environmentalist, could still cut down trees and mine ore in Sibuyan Island unless stopped by the Romblon governor, environment officials said yesterday.

The fatal shooting of Councilor Armin Marin by a guard of the Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC) last Wednesday set off calls for the pullout of the firm and cancellation of its permit.

Marin, 42, was leading a picket against mining in San Fernando town last Wednesday when he was shot and killed during a heated confrontation with a guard named Mario Kingo.

"The decision has been made. [We can't stop their operation]," Environment Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi said in an interview, referring to the small-scale permit issued to the firm by then Romblon Gov. Perpetuo Ylagan.

Only the provincial government could withdraw the permit, and if it did, it would have to pay expenses incurred by the firm, Gerochi said.

"The local government should initiate a dialogue with the protesters. It should look into the core of the complaint of the protesters and whether they represent the communities," he said.

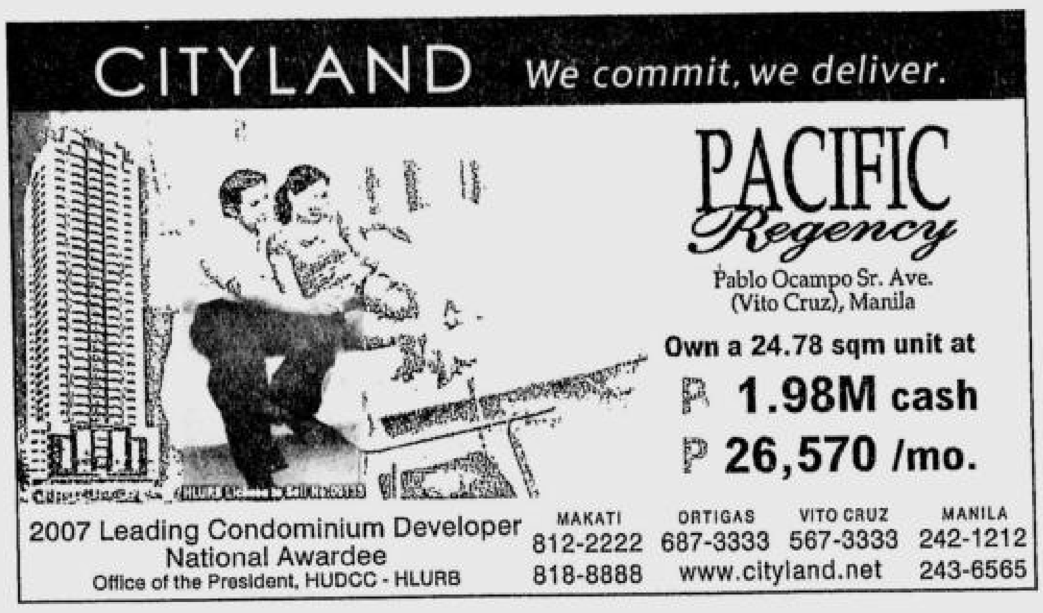
Gerochi added that if the provincial government recalled the permit, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would also recall the permit issued to SNPDC to cut down trees in San Fernando town.

"We will also recall the permit because the small-scale permit is the basis for the tree-cutting permit," he said.

For now, nothing is stopping the SNPDC from cutting down trees and mining ore in forest lands in Barangay España and Taclobo in San Fernando town which the DENR said were outside of the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park.

The DENR, however, would closely monitor the cutting of trees specified in the permit, and the restoration of the site to its original state as spelled out in its environmental compliance certificate, Gerochi said.

"All we have to do is implement proper mitigation measures," he said.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STUDENTS of the Pasig Elementary School join the nationwide Super Mega Toothbrushing event. REM ZAMORA

3M students brush their teeth to fame

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AT EXACTLY 7 A.M. YESTERDAY, EDUCAtion Secretary Jesli A. Lapus joined more than three million public elementary school students nationwide in setting a new Guinness world record for the "most people brushing their teeth at the same time in multiple venues."

The activity coincided with the launching of the DepEd's "7 o'clock daily tooth brushing habit."

Over 10,000 public schools took part in the program, according to Director Thelma Santos of the DepEd's Health and Nutrition Center (HNC).

In February, the DepEd established a Guinness world record with more than 42,000 students taking part in simultaneous tooth brushing in different venues throughout the country.

"That erased the old record set by 33,000 students in Brazil," said Santos. Yesterday, the DepEd established a new record.

The daily tooth brushing habit was meant to highlight the celebration of Oral Health Awareness Week in primary schools. The project was formally launched in the following schools: Pasig Elementary School in Pasig City, Metro Manila (representing Luzon); Cebu City Central Elementary School (representing the Visayas) and the Ma-a Central Elementary School in Davao City (representing Mindanao).

Alarming problem

According to the 2006 National Oral Health Survey, a high 97.1 percent of 6-year-old pupils and 78.4 percent of 12-year olds in public elementary schools nationwide had dental problems.

"Much more alarming was the finding that almost 50 percent of the children were suffering from dentogenic infections characterized by ulceration, fistula and abscess that infect pain, cause extreme discomfort and even decreased capacity for children to learn," said the DepEd memo.

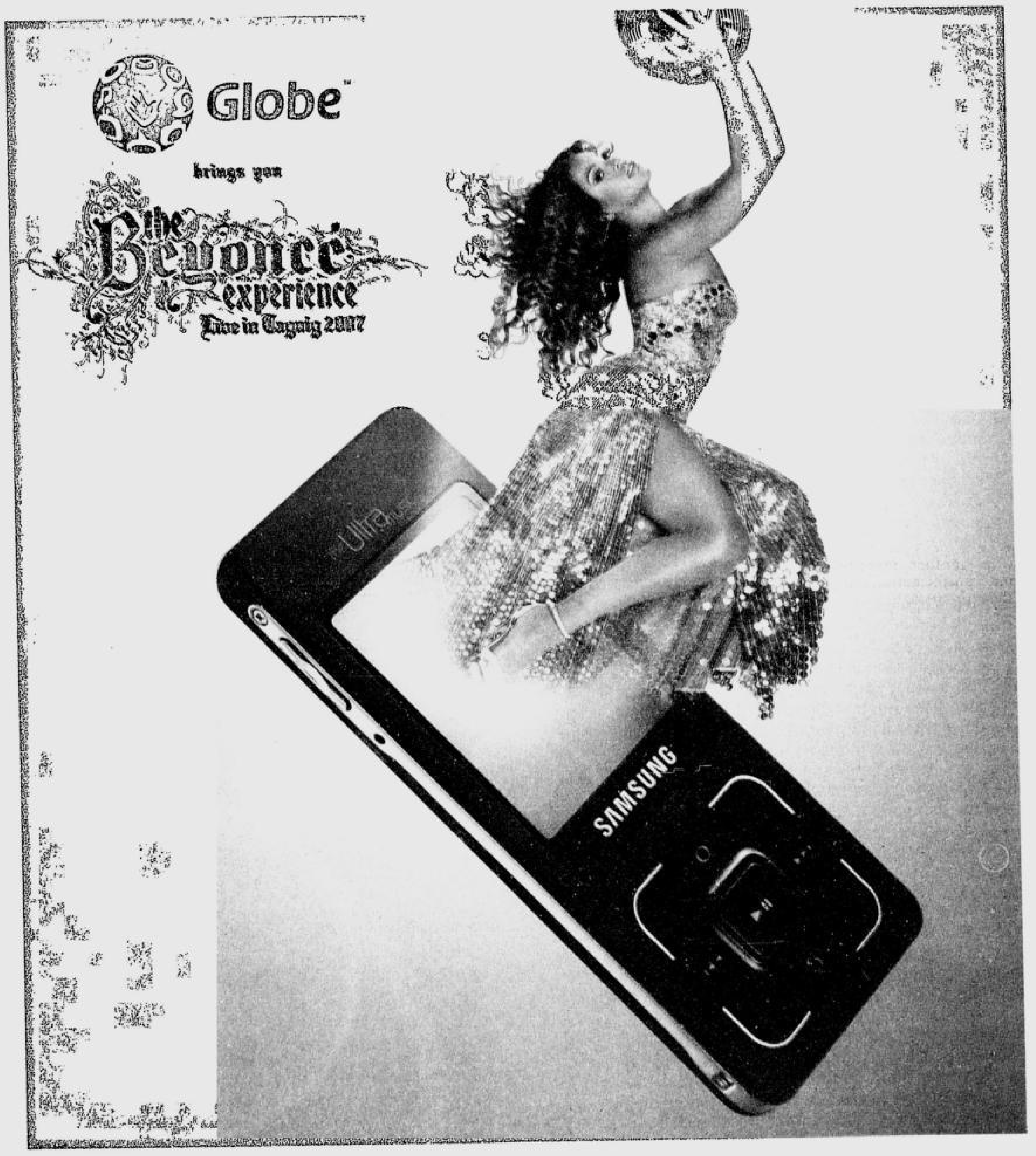
Lapus said "the results of the dental survey illustrate how little we regard oral hygiene," referring to "the Filipino mindset that a visit to a dentist should not be for preventive consultation but as a last resort."

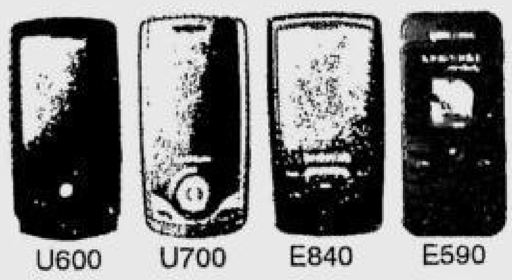
This year, the DepEd has allocated P40.1 million for medical-dental health and nursing services.

It is also working closely with the Department of Health in the deworming program which aims to reduce the prevalence of the disease to "levels below 30 percent" of schoolchildren.

At least 67 percent of students in public elementary schools nationwide suffer from intestinal worm infestation, according to the DOH.

Deworming in public schools is being conducted at least twice a year until 2010.





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OPINION

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Protecting news sources

EDITORIAL

ON SEPT. 27, THE INQUIRER REPORTED THAT Romulo Neri, former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, was "on the verge" of disclosing what he knew about the $329-million National Broadband Network deal when Sen. Joker Arroyo intervened and said that Neri should be allowed to avail himself of a legal counsel of his choice. The story by Juliet Labog-Javellana was based on the account of four sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Arroyo called the report a complete falsehood and asked the Senate to investigate the senators and other officials present at the executive session for violating the secrecy rule on closed-door sessions. He also asked the Senate to investigate the INQUIRER for publishing the report. He and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said the Senate should cite Javellana for contempt unless she reveals her sources.

The INQUIRER is standing by its story. We also believe that we cannot be compelled to reveal the identities of sources since the information was given in confidence and on condition of anonymity. Our stand has a strong basis in law. Republic Act No. 53, as amended, otherwise known as the Sotto Law, says that the publisher, editor, columnist or reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news report or information which was given to him unless it is demanded by "the security of the State."

We do not believe that "the security of the State" is involved in the inquiry into the anomalous ZTE deal. What is involved primarily is the issue of corruption, as alleged by two witnesses in open hearings. Neri himself disclosed that he was offered P200 million by former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos. Jose de Venecia III, son of the Speaker, said Abalos offered to give him $10 million so he would withdraw his bid for the NBN project.

In the executive session, Neri was on the verge of revealing more about the project when, according to our four sources, Arroyo intervened and allowed Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to join the session as Neri's legal counsel.

Arroyo himself has said that the case against Javellana is "a borderline case." He is apparently aware of the protection given by the Sotto Law to journalists. The Senate committees investigating the case cannot compel Javellana to disclose the names of her sources, and the Senate cannot cite her for contempt if she refuses to identify them.

It is not only the law that gives protection to journalists who quote anonymous sources in their stories; their professional code of ethics also gives them such protection. In journalism, the protection of sources is a cornerstone of press freedom. A journalist who violates the confidentiality of his sources will soon see these sources drying up.

Ideally, the sources of information in a news report should be identified. But this cannot be done all the time. There are times when a journalist has to agree to keep his source or sources anonymous for certain reasons. One reason is if the life of the person giving the information would be endangered. Another is if he would lose his job because of the information he is disclosing. There may be other reasons, and it is up to the reporter and his editor to decide whether to use the material given on condition of anonymity.

Even now, Enrile is already proposing to amend or even repeal the Sotto Law. That certainly would be a reactionary move; it would remove one protection given to journalists in carrying out their work. Especially in these times when high government officials seek to hide anomalous multimillion-peso deals from public scrutiny, journalists will have to continue the practice of using information given by sources "on condition of anonymity." Journalists are discerning people and they should be trusted to vet their sources very carefully before bestowing on them the mantle of "anonymity." Also, there is the two-source rule: information given by one anonymous source has to be corroborated by another source. (In the case of the Javellana story, there were four sources.)

If the Senate committee on ethics decides to conduct its inquiry, it should focus on the senators as well as the other people present at the executive session and not on the reporter who wrote the story. Javellana was only doing her job. The four sources who talked to her were the ones who supposedly broke the confidentiality of the executive session. A "roll call" type of inquiry should produce some results.

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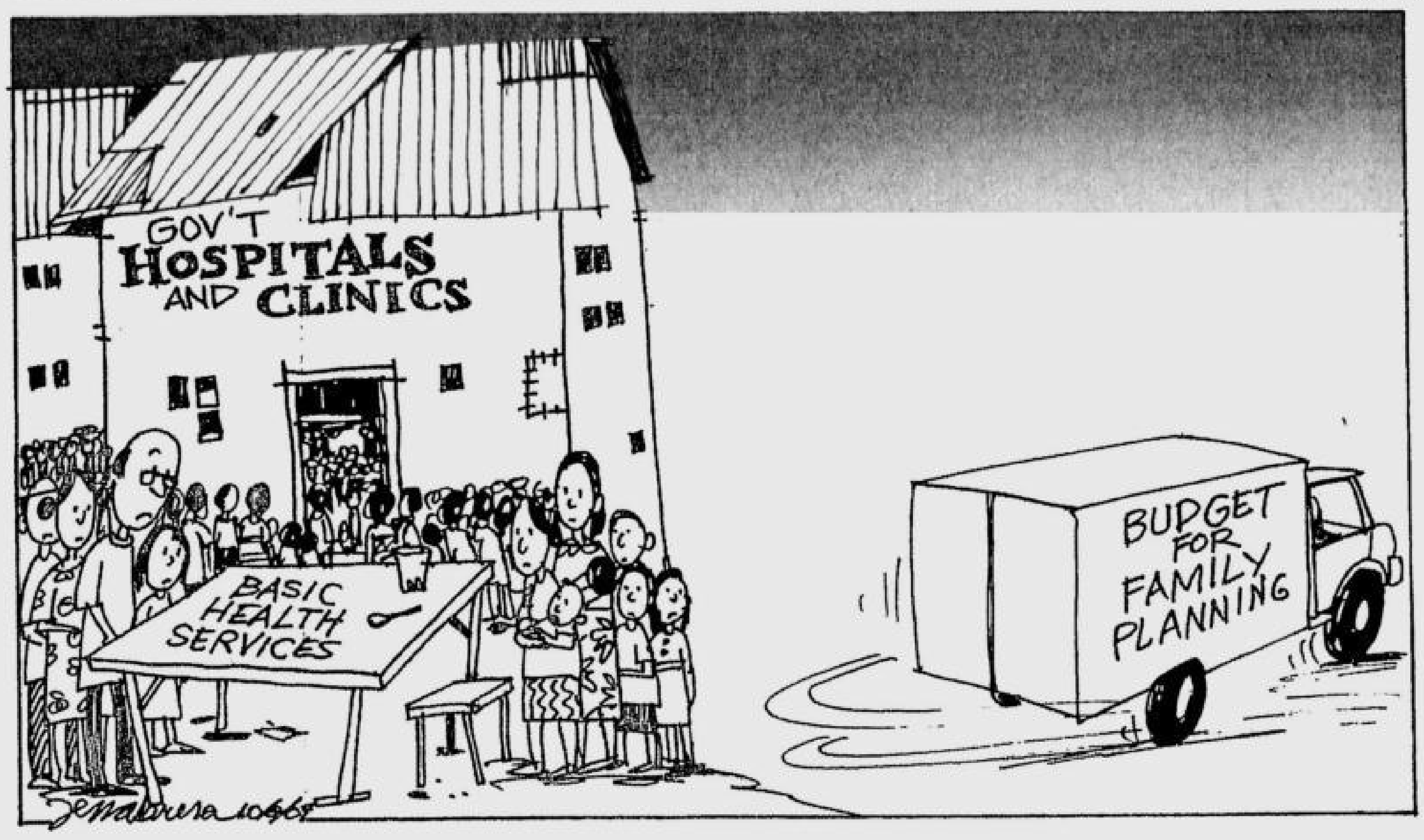

Darker than midnight

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THE NIGHT CANNOT GET DARKER AFTER midnight" is an old Burmese proverb. But it did in 1988 and 1990, says Andrew Marshall in "The Trouser People: A Story of Burma in the Shadow of the Empire." That was when the xenophobic junta unleashed the *tatmadaw* (armed forces) on citizens seeking democratic space. Some 3,000 people were killed.

Burma's generals proved, this month, that even Stygian darkness can be deepened. Its soldiers smashed the People Power-style "Saffron Revolution" led by Buddhist monks. Already beggared by junta misrule, the country turned into a nation of eerie, empty monasteries and untallied disaparecidos.

The "disappeared," British Broadcasting Corp. reports, range from 6,000 to 10,000. The Miranda rights of the accused don't exist in a country where the military has been conditioned, over four decades, into believing that only they can save the nation. Filipino coup plotters share that delusion.

The *tatmadaw* is "a tough, self-contained institution, cemented by fear and privilege," The New York Times' Seth Mydans writes. Budget for the military and ethnic militia is seven times what government spends for health. "Soldiers earn more than civilians, send their children to the best schools and have brighter career prospects than civilians. They also have opportunities to tap into the gray economy of graft."

Diplomats give credible estimates of the "disappeared." They exceed Philippine martial law arrests in September 1972. Desperate Argentinean mothers stenciled the word "disparecidos" into today's vocabulary of terror. But Argentineans didn't vanish, in comparable numbers, in so short a time, as Burmese victims did.

"There's great concern over night-time raids, arbitrary arrests, mass relocations and beatings being committed by security and non-uniformed elements," UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari stressed in his report to the Security Council. "The real death toll could be much higher."

Our streets are "normal," Burma's Ambassador Kyaw Tint Swe insisted to ward off a possible Security Council decision this week. This is normalcy of the graveyard. Buddhist monks, in fact, disappeared from the streets. Concertina barbed wire strung around Shwedagon and Sule pagodas were only removed this week.

This would be comparable to padlocking the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine and the mosque in Quiapo. Monasteries of Carmelites, Benedictines to Pink Sisters would be forcibly emptied. Filipinos will gag at this Orwellian image.

Burma is probably one of the richest members of Asean in natural resources. It has, for example, three trillion cubic meters of natural gas, plus three billion barrels of oil. Yet misrule saddles it with fuel shortages. The "Saffron Revolution" started in August, when the junta jacked up fuel prices by 500 percent overnight.

Health disparities are stark. The average Burmese's life expectancy is 60 years, compared to a Singaporean's 78, the United Nations Human Development Report reveals. In an agriculturally endowed but undeveloped land, chronic hunger shoves many to premature graves. Of every 1,000 Burmese infants, 106 will die before marking their fifth birthday. Next door Thailand has whittled that down to 21.

"Lack of money is the root of all evil," George Bernard Shaw once said. And where the junta denies money shows how it "saves" the country.

For health, Malaysia allocates almost five times what Burma spends, i.e., a miniscule 0.5 percent of its GDP (the Philippine budgets 1.4 percent). Thus, 9 out of 10 Malaysian mothers have skilled medical personnel during delivery. In Burma, only 5 out of 10 do. Of every 100,000 Burmese mothers, 360 will die during child-bearing, compared to Malaysia's 31.

Education is a major trigger for development. But the Burmese junta blacks out data on what it spends for all levels of schooling. Universities have been shut down, and attendance in primary schools is sporadic. Darkness from ignorance is darker than midnight.

"Governments dominated by the military are least likely to respond to the needs of the impoverished," Nicole Ball of the Swedish Institute for International Affairs cautions. "The army merely ploughs the seas."

Burma's "triumphant" generals clone this sorry historical experience. This underscores the significance of what Philippine courts are doing to stomp the junta virus here, given a presidency that denies but acts as if it is held hostage by military power brokers. Magdalo mutineers, perennial coup plotters and even some in the "chain of command" delude themselves that as "protectors of the state, they're a state unto themselves."

Through the writ of amparo, the Supreme Court would strip away the dodge used by the military to escape accountability for disparecidos. The Court of Appeals is ratcheting pressure on AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to obey a court order to make public the findings of a military investigation into the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos.

Waving away feeble excuses, Court of Appeals Justice Rosalinda Vicente asked: "Can General Esperon not tell the difference between right and wrong?" Well, neither could Generals Than Shwe, Maung Aye and Soe Win.

Writer Jose San Martin put it so well: "How poor the country that must suffer gloriously triumphant generals."

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Privilege

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IN A TALK WITH MEDIA WHILE SHE WAS IN India, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said the following:

One, it is true that Neda chief Romulo Neri told her that Benjamin Abalos tried to bribe him with P200 million. She told Neri not to accept the offer.

Two, it is true that she wanted Neri not to divulge what she and Neri talked about on grounds of "executive privilege." "I want to discipline my Cabinet members. They shouldn't be leaking out things that we talked about... In any part of the world, there's executive privilege."

Three, setting up a national broadband network remains a priority of her administration. "I'm the president, so I set the policy directions... Look at the telecom companies. Technically, what they do, to assist, how much should it cost? We have to look for a way to bring that down... We have this P3 billion communications bill...."

What's wrong with this picture?

The first is patent and was the fly in the ointment in Neri's testimony at the Senate a couple of weeks ago. What do you do when confronted by a bribe, particularly of this magnitude? Neri's attitude to it was so smug it astounded a few senators—though it is a testament to how low this country's morals have sunk that most of them were not especially discombobulated by it.

What applies to Neri applies tenfold to his (still, not my) president. GMA is right to say that as the highest official of the land, however self-proclaimed, she sets the policy directions. Now, what policy directions can you possibly be setting if your economic czar tells you your Comelec chief tried to bribe him big-time, and the sum, entirety and/or totality of your reaction is to say, "Just reject it"?

If Neri's reaction to his president not doing a thing about it is shocking, GMA's reaction to not do a thing about it is mind-boggling. Obviously, GMA believed Neri because, by her own admission, she told him to reject the bribe. Yet she never summoned Abalos to give her one good reason he should not suffer the same fate as Erap. She never called Jose de Venecia and gave him leave to impeach Abalos. Hell, she never even asked Abalos to do pushups, which everyone complained was all Cory Aquino made her coup plotters do.

You are the president and you think it the height of presidential virtue to ignore an unconscionable crime? Even if GMA did not go on to order Neri to push through with the project anyway (which we will never know if we agree to her concept of executive privilege), her indifference to Abalos' crime in, by, and of itself is damning—and impeachable. Here is a case where a sin of omission is graver than a sin of commission. Here is a case where silence is more deafening than loud noise.

What is the policy direction here: It's all right for one official to try to bribe another official so long as it's not accepted? The truly stunning thing about GMA's revelation here is that she can't seem to see what's wrong with it.

That brings us to "executive privilege." At the very least, what's wrong with that picture is that if this kind of executive privilege is truly necessary, if not laudable, then GMA would not be around today to say so. Lest we forget, the reason she is there—the longest-serving president without ever having been voted president—is that one of Erap's buddies ratted on him. Chavit Singson might not have been a member of the official Cabinet, but he was most definitely a member of the unofficial—and more powerful—one, the so-called "Midnight Cabinet." Had he exercised the kind of discipline GMA proposes, or indeed had Erap demanded it, preventing Singson from telling the world what he knew on grounds of executive privilege, GMA would still be currying Cory's favor to this day. Singson's testimony later became the basis for the Sandiganbayan to convict Erap.

More than that, true enough "executive privilege" exists in every part of the world, but it exists to protect secrets, not hide crimes. There's a difference. Psychiatrists and lawyers are bound to secrecy, too, but they are freed from it when their clients tell them about a murder they propose to commit. Then they are duty-bound to do everything in their power to prevent it from happening, including telling the proper authorities of it. Even priests are freed from the confessional when someone tells them he means to bomb a bus. The priest in any case does not limit his response to telling the penitent to recite 10 Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's, and go in peace.

A public official's duty is not to his boss, it is to his country. A public official's obligation is not to his president, it is to his people. For him to not tell his country and people his government is plotting to screw them, that is not professionalism, that is dereliction. That is not loyalty, that is treason. That is not executive privilege, that is (expletive) sacrilege.

The last lends a sublime note of irony to all this. What is the whole broadband deal about? It is about communication. It is about facilitating communication. It is about making communication faster, more affordable, more readily accessible to everyone. Yet communication is the last thing this deal has given us. It hasn't facilitated communication, particularly between government and the citizens, it has blocked communication. It has not made communication faster, it has ground it to a halt; it has not made communication more affordable, government cannot afford to communicate at all; it has not made communication readily available to everyone, it has put communication beyond reach of everyone. The NBN deal means to give us 21st-century means of communication using Dark-Ages, Inquisition-type, methods of excommunication.

"Executive privilege?" You should be so lucky. Or as the Tagalog puts it more brilliantly, *"Ano ka, sineswerti"*?

Pacquiao might consider retiring as champ

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I DON'T HAVE THE EXPERTISE OF RECAH Trinidad or Quinito Henson in boxing, especially since I only watch the fights of Manny Pacquiao and young Pinoy boxers who serve as front acts in big bouts. But it was obvious to this layman that in last Sunday's fight, Pacquiao was fighting way below par. Many of his deadly punches were not hitting their target, and Antonio Barrera himself acknowledged he didn't feel many of them. Let's just say that Pacquiao fought far better fights in the past, including his memorable knock-out wins, whereas Barrera obviously prepared hard, although the Mexican's best wasn't good enough for the Pinoy champ even at his worst.

There are stories about Pacquiao's late nights out in Los Angeles bars and an affair with a movie actress, etc. He has gotten all kinds of movie offers. If these are true, then our champ seems to lack the self-discipline that's an absolute must among sports people. It might be good for him to consider retiring as a champ.

By the way, I'm not surprised that many viewers were irked by too many ads in the GMA-7 coverage of the Las Vegas fight. There must have been anywhere from 12 to 15 between rounds, and there ought to be some kind of regulation about this.

* * *

Comments are being aired on who should be appointed as new Comelec chair, with various commentators stressing the urgent criteria needed for this constitutional position of credibility and independent-mindedness. Election lawyers, such as the President's lawyer Romulo Macalintal and Sixto Brillantes, who handled FPJ and other opposition candidates, earlier batted for fellow election lawyer Leila de Lima, who handled cases for opposition candidates in the last elections. Others are pushing former Sen. Joey Lina, who now heads the Manila Hotel. Another name bruited about is that of UE College of Law Dean Amado D. Valdez. These three personalities have solid reputations for independent-mindedness and can be expected to clean up the Comelec.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia tendered a luncheon yesterday for the Spanish parliamentary delegation from the Committee on Foreign Affairs for Asia and the Philippines, and it was a most meaningful gathering for him personally and for the country as well, now that President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to make a state visit to Madrid early this December. The head of the delegation, Juan Moscoso, revealed that the Spanish Parliament recently passed a law authorizing the conversion into equity of debts incurred from Spain by Third World countries. It is the first parliament in Europe to allow such conversion, he said, and it's up to the Spanish government to find projects to which this law can apply. Hopefully other governments in Europe and Asia will follow Spain's example and not just relieve Third World countries of debt burden, but use the repayments for development in those countries.

* * *

Speaker de Venecia recalled that four years ago he had discussed this idea of a debt-for-equity swap with Spain's King Juan Carlos during a call on the monarch, and subsequently with members of the Spanish Parliament, and now it has become a reality. JDV recalled that the king especially liked the idea of financing the reconstruction of Intramuros. The visiting parliamentarians noted that a number of similar old Hispanic cities in its former colonies have been reconstructed by Spain. JDV then suggested to them and to Eugenio Gonzalez, president of Fundacion Intramuros, that the negotiations on the project to reconstruct the Walled City be finished in the next two months. The agreement could then be signed when President Arroyo visits Madrid.

I learned from the visiting parliamentarians that Spain has about $50 billion worth of development projects in Latin America alone, but its exposure in Asia remains minuscule by comparison. I queried Ambassador Luis Arias on this, and he replied that Spain has about 15 projects going on in the Philippines, of which six are in Mindanao. These involve delivery of basic services such as clean potable water. It would be a nice gesture if Spain approved the Intramuros project.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I learned that Albay Gov. Joey Salceda was in Manila last weekend to tie up loose ends on the first-ever National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation he's organizing in Legaspi from Oct. 22 to 24. We grabbed the chance to interview him as we hadn't done one with a local official in a while. Let me write about Salceda's views concerning media speculations about GMA's fate. Salceda, who served as GMA's financial adviser and continues to be in touch with her, pooh-poohed any such talk outside of the impeachment process as highly unlikely.

For one thing, he says, there's the economy which is doing so well, unlike during the last years of Ferdinand Marcos when GDP growth fell from 5 percent to a negative 12 percent. Under GMA, says, Salceda, there have been 26 quarters of uninterrupted and accelerating economic growth, which corresponds to very favorable global conditions "that would carry everything upward in their path, even the garbage." "*Bumebwelo na ang ekonomiya*," he stressed, so that the 7.5 GDP growth in the first quarter of this year needs only P55 billion in infrastructure investments to sustain it. He noted several impressive big-ticket foreign investments this year, and we need only about three or four more such items to carry the economy to 8 percent growth. By 2009, he says local businessmen, who know the market and follow the big foreign investments, will come in and push it to 9 percent growth. (Next, Salceda talks on the demand for Pinoys overseas and the educational fluke and cultural traits that sustain it).

At home in the world

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

32 MCKINLEY ST. IN FORBES PARK HAS LONG been an intriguing address. Intriguing not only because of its size, which spans several lots in this ritzy neighborhood, but also because of its owner, or rather, former owner.

Rumors about the estate's owner had circulated even during its construction, though those in the know claimed the homeowner was someone connected to Brunei royalty. Recently, ownership of the property changed hands, with a low-key local family purchasing it. The new owners have since decided to open the palatial home to public events, and so great is the lingering mystique around the property that any event held there is sure to attract the curious and the trendy.

Teased that more than half of the guests at the launching of Travelife magazine probably came because they wanted to see the house for themselves, editor in chief Liza Elarde laughed and said: "That's the reason we decided to hold the launch here!"

Guests who came expecting to see evidence of fabulous wealth and ostentation, however, were disappointed because the interiors were bare, save for touches provided by the Travelife team. We were told that the public rooms are deliberately kept empty, while the owner's family members keep to themselves in a separate wing. But we did appreciate, aside from huge blown-up photos of the first issue, an improvised sculpture crafted from roll-away luggage, a most clever, witty homage to what the new magazine is all about—wanderlust, love for travel and adventure, a taste for the exotic and unfamiliar.

* * *

BUT for most of us from the Inquirer, or formerly from the Inquirer, our presence was really because at the helm of the magazine is a "member of the family."

Travelife's publisher is Christine O. Cunanan, daughter of Inquirer columnist Bel Cunanan, though we've known Christine since she was a teenager for in her younger days, she was a contributor and columnist in this paper as well. But these days, Christine, who is fluent in Japanese, lives in Japan with her Japanese husband, indulging her travel bug by taking regular trips to Europe and more exotic places. It's only natural, I suppose, for her to take on the challenge of putting out a glossy travel magazine, going head-on against more established titles.

"One week a month" was Christine's reply when I asked how much time she devotes to the publication, though that's only the physical time she spends in Manila. The rest of the time, business matters are handled through the wonders of information technology.

At the launch, Johnny Litton, assisted by Christine and Liza, presided over the raffle, at which plane tickets, hotel and resort accommodations, free dinners and luggage were at stake. The publisher's mother was all over the grounds as well, looking after the guests, many of them bigwigs in politics, business, society, advertising, and, of course, media.

Gina de Venecia won a free dinner for two at Mandarin Oriental, and I thought, how apt, because the Speaker and his wife could use the time away from the limelight and forget all the vicissitudes of politics, including a tense face-off with Malacañang. Still, Gina looked none the worse for wear, I thought.

* * *

IN ITS maiden issue, Travelife brings the reader to such diverse locales as Provence, Namibia, Putrajaya (in Malaysia), the Park Hyatt in Seoul, Laos (in an article by First Daughter Luli Arroyo), Kerala in Southern India, and even Cebu.

Regular features include tips for the business traveler, from executives who find themselves crisscrossing the skies with numbing regularity and who put a value on time-saving and efficiency; new emerging destinations, trendy travel gear and luggage; shopping and fashion guides; and foodie destinations.

What I enjoyed most, however, was Christine's column "The Frequent Flyer" which closes every issue. For the first issue, she writes about a trip to Paris with a girlfriend whom she had met on a Black Sea cruise years before. In the week they spent in the City of Lights, the two of them used up the time "walking our shoes off" on the trail of historic heroines, from Marie Antoinette to Maria Callas and thence to the Duchess of Windsor. Christine's account of their attempts to enter the Windsors' villa, which was one of the last places Princess Diana visited before her death, is hilarious. Indeed, the lengths to which tourists—even million-milers—will go to indulge their fancies!

* * *

INDEED, that is one of the bonuses of travel—the freedom not to be your usual self, to roam the world unfettered by convention, expectations, and responsibilities that otherwise tie you down.

While traveling, one is free to assume any identity: jaded jet-setter, innocent abroad, diligent scholar, even an imagined native of the land one is visiting. That is one of my hidden pleasures: to peek into the windows of homes or offices on my way to the hotel or convention center and imagine myself sharing the lives of the people inside, working in the city, coming home to a different place and perhaps a different family?

Of course, one's imaginings come to a shuddering halt once the trip is over and one comes home. About the most difficult part of any trip for me is the transition from traveling to settling in. One part of me yearns for the on-edge excitement of being among strangers. The other finds relief in finally sinking into the comforts of the familiar, the familiarity of a daily routine.

And now, thanks to a magazine like Travelife, one can at least take virtual trips around the world, indulging one's restless spirit even while enjoying all the comforts and consolations of home.

Breaking the code of confidentiality

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IF YOU DON'T INCLUDE LITO LAPID (THAT'S Sen. Manuel M. Lapid to you), only one senator of consequence has been avoiding the Senate hearings on the National Broadband Network and the ZTE deal. Last week, Sen. Edgardo Angara called up from sunny Cebu to explain why.

The law firm he founded is the retained counsel of ZTE, he said, referring to Accra. "Since the issue is all about conflict of interest," he said, perhaps it was best to give the hearings a wide berth. Besides, he added, there was so much work on the budget that needed to get done.

* * *

The 2nd Inquirer Briefing takes place tomorrow. If the first get-together of CEOs, diplomats, opinion leaders and Inquirer columnists last July was any indication, the 2nd Briefing will be another slam-bang policyfest, with the discussion (like many a thrilling game in the recently concluded UAAP season) going into overtime. Tomorrow's topic is something close to the Inquirer's heart: education. More specifically, how to make sense of current initiatives in education. Should be (wonky) fun.

* * *

Aside from Sen. Joker Arroyo, another senator has also sought an investigation into the circumstances of the executive session the Senate held late on Sept. 26. In fact, Sen. Panfilo Lacson filed his measure (Senate Resolution No. 164) ahead of Arroyo's (SRN 165)—albeit on the same day, Oct. 2.

A comparison of the two resolutions is not only instructive in the ways of the Senate; it is also revealing, in its accidental self-portrait of the two sponsoring senators. (You don't have to take my word for it. Both measures are available online, together with the Rules of the Senate, at senate.gov.ph.)

Arroyo's precisely worded resolution takes aim at a wider target: "the violation of Rule XLVII and/or other rules of the Rules of the Senate on executive sessions during the Sept. 26, 2007 proceedings." Lacson's employs almost similar language, but is actually much more limited: "investigate the Sept. 26, 2007 'executive session' of the senators where an uninvited guest allegedly hindered the testimony of a witness and the subsequent publication of what supposedly transpired in the said session."

In the parade of "Whereas" clauses, Arroyo's SRN 165 already establishes certain facts. 1. "Almost all the senators were present in that Executive Session." 2. "Budget Secretary [Rolando] Andaya and Deputy Secretary Manuel Gaite attended because Senator [Alan Peter] Cayetano, the Blue Ribbon Chair, said that Mr. [Romulo] Neri can bring his lawyers. Blue Ribbon Director-General Rodolfo Noel Quimbo was also present." And 3. "at the start of the executive session, Senate President [Manuel] Villar reiterated the long-standing rule that anything said in the meeting stays in the meeting, nothing can get out." (Hmmm. Rather like Las Vegas.)

Other clauses in SRN 165 are not as fact-driven. Arroyo posits motherhood statements ("the Senate must conduct an inquiry ... otherwise, no one will believe the confidentiality and sacrosanctness of executive sessions") or contentious assertions ("the Inquirer has been at the forefront of the campaign to compel Sec. Neri to reveal his confidential conversations"—a claim that surely columnist Jarius Bondoc of the Star will contest).

* * *

Lacson's SRN 164, however, has a curiously phrased premise (I've fixed the annoying typos): "Whereas, according to newspaper reports, Budget Secretary Andaya who was not even invited in the supposed executive session entered the Senators' Executive Lounge and represented himself as the legal counsel of Secretary Neri."

According to newspaper reports? Lacson's use of the generic attribution makes us wonder whether he was even present at the executive session. What's going on here? Perhaps this is merely a non-lawyer's excessively cautious attempt to insulate himself from legal sanction.

But in the very next clause, Lacson raises a novel legal point: "the presence of Secretary Andaya in the said meeting even without a proper invitation from the Senate could render said executive session academic." Does an executive session, convoked expressly as such by the Senate President, cease to be one when an improperly invited guest materializes inside the room? That seems to me to give too much leverage to any Eduardo, Leandro or Sergio from Malacañang.

The result is ironic: The non-lawyer's resolution is more legalistic, and inadvertently opens a legal loophole.

* * *

That, in part, is why Arroyo, ever the lawyer, asked Inquirer's Juliet Javellana to identify her sources not on legal but on moral grounds. I sympathize with Joker—"for me he will always be the man in robes, defending my father," I heard Sen. Benigno Aquino III gallantly say of him once. But I believe he is wrong when he argues that "the Inquirer cannot maintain the moral high ground if it will not allow Ms Javellana to reveal her sources."

Stripped to its essence, Arroyo's argument from morality encourages journalists to right a wrong (the alleged leak in the Senate) by committing another wrong (breaking the journalistic privilege).

Reduced to its essentials, Bondoc's parallel decision to reveal some of the information Neri had told him in strictest confidence privileges his appreciation of the public interest over his duty as a journalist. I sympathize with him; it could not have been an easy decision. But esteemed colleague Ellen Tordesillas' defense of his decision—"If Bondoc's disclosure of Neri's confidential information leads to the downfall of Arroyo, well and good"—tells me what is wrong with it. What if it doesn't lead to her downfall? What then? The decision is "good" only because of a reason extraneous to journalism.

* * *

Email: jnery@inquirer.com.ph

'One day at a time'

YOUNG BLOOD

Yron Celison G. Sarile

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THOSE WERE THE FIRST WORDS THAT AN UPPERCLASSman told me on a cold summer night six years ago. It turned out to be one of the longest nights for me and it ushered in more grueling days that would change the course of my life.

It was the first day of training. I proudly marched on the filthy grounds of the field, only to be welcomed by a group of men yelling at the top of their voices: "Double-time! Raise your knees higher!" During that very long and humid afternoon, my clothes were drenched in sweat, my face covered with mud. I thought I was in hell and that there would be no end to my suffering.

As we headed for our barracks that night, the cold breeze sent chills into my drenched body. With fear and hesitation, we slowly disappeared into the night with our squad leader.

Suddenly, we heard a deep and calm voice saying, "Uncover." It was our squad leader ordering us to take off our head gear. The moon was shining brightly in the starless sky. Then he said, "Say your prayers and make sure this night counts."

The night was not yet over. After dinner (during which I hardly touched my food), we changed into our sleeping uniforms. We were taught to fix our bed spic and span. Each of us was given a notebook, our only means of communicating with our squad leader.

I remember my first entry in my "squad notes." I wrote, "Sir, Fourth Classman Sarile has low morale because he is hungry."

When our squad leader read it, he laughed. Then the bugle sounded taps to tell us to go to sleep. That was when he told us, "Take only one day at a time." And he left.

That night, I kept thinking about those words. How could those words provide relief to my hungry stomach and solve all my problems and my worries?

Day after day, I struggled to cope up with the tough demands of the life of a cadet. I didn't count the days, but before I knew it, I had become an upper-class man.

In my second year I thought my hardships were over. I completely forgot what our squad leader told us. My eyes were fixed on my graduation, and I forgot that I still had three more years to hurdle. Each day grew more insignificant to me. I wanted time to go faster. I wanted to march on the stage. I was so engrossed by the thought of graduation that I forgot the problems of the moment—failing grades—and neglected my duties and responsibilities. I was living such a fast-paced life that I thought nothing could stop me.

But something did. A series of events made me realize that God was trying to slow me down. One day, I found myself packing up my things and leaving the Academy.

As I was sorting out my things, I came across a book that I had left unread. It was covered with dust, its cover torn. It didn't cover any of the subjects we had to learn in the Academy, but it covered a whole lot of my life.

I was not much into reading books. Everything we did had to be done on schedule: eating, studying, even taking a bath. When we had free time, I would spend it playing my favorite sports or entertaining visitors. There was so much to study that I could not find time to read another book. I had no time to read devotional books, until I rediscovered this book and realized that because of the schedule we kept, it was the only kind I could read and finish from cover to cover.

I spent a year outside the Academy. The first few weeks were very hard for me. I would stay in my room, keep the lights off and sit in one corner contemplating what happened to me and asking God where I had gone wrong.

One day as I was looking into the boxes I had brought home, I saw the book again. Since I had nothing do, I opened it and turned it to the page corresponding with the date. The reading was about a man who kept playing for God even when he had only one string left on his violin.

That started me on the habit of reading the page for every single day. I couldn't say if it was merely a coincidence, but each time I had questions in my heart, the devotional reading answered it.

I started to slow down. As I licked my wounds, I started to reconnect with God again. It was a slow but a meaningful process. I committed every single day of my life to God and made sure that it counts for Him.

I remembered the advice of our squad leader and understood what he was talking about. Then I noticed that I was getting more out of life by living it every day. I started to write my own journal so that I would have a record of the lessons I learned not just from the book but also from the people I met.

When it was time for me to report back to the Academy, I knew that I had to do more than just graduate. I felt ready to finish what I had started. And I got more than what I asked for.

Of course, I wasn't immune to problems. I faced even bigger problems before I finally completed my course. But I knew that the closer you get to God, the more your faith will be put to a test by problems. David McCasland, one of the book's contributing authors, was challenged by a friend's declaration that he wanted to follow the Lord with "daily rather than dramatic devotion." Each of us has experienced some great spiritual events in our lives, but our daily choices to obey Christ best express our love for Him.

If my life were a book, it would definitely be "Daily Bread." Only a few people are lucky enough to be given a second chance. I am one of the lucky ones. I consider this life my second life and I don't want to let it go to waste again. My gratitude to God is great, and I do not know how I can ever repay His goodness. Maybe I can begin by serving others every day in every way I can.

Yron Celison G. Sarile, 23, is an ensign in the Philippine Navy. He was assistant editor in chief of Corps Magazine, the official publication of the Philippine Military Academy.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

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Neri closing door on his redemption

THE SENATE INVESTIGATION INto the NBN-ZTE contract once again highlights the need to remind all government workers that public office is a public trust. In the case of Romulo Neri, his loyalty to duty should have trumped his loyalty to whoever appointed him Neda director-general.

While many hailed Neri for exposing Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos' attempt to bribe him and for identifying Enrique Razon as the powerful businessman behind his relief as Neda chief, I saw nothing in his testimony worthy of praise. It was clear that he was concerned less about the Filipino people being burdened with a P15-billion debt for 20 years than about his remaining in good graces with his boss and benefactor.

I agree that Neri was daring enough to reveal the details of the alleged bribery attempt and defy those who threatened to cast doubt on his heretofore unsullied character and brilliant mind. But for all his much vaunted integrity, Neri was a big disappointment. Millions wanted to hear why a non-priority project was hastily approved for financing by government loan instead of by the private sector as he and President Macapagal-Arroyo had previously agreed. But invoking executive privilege, he refused to disclose what transpired from the time he informed the President of the bribery attempt until the NBN contract was signed and he was transferred to the Commission on Higher Education.

The Senate hearing could have been Neri's trial as well. It put to the test not his intelligence or his competence but his forthrightness. Half-truths often become bold lies when vital information is deliberately withheld, or facts are so arranged as to lead listeners to a false conclusion.

It is said that everyone has his own price. A man may be coerced, bought or flattered into doing what he would not do under ordinary circumstances. By his account, Neri showed he could not be coerced by Enrique Razon or bought by Benjamin Abalos. But subtle flattery can open doors where brute force or tons of money would fail to afford even a peek. I think Neri was made to believe that the President needed him in her Cabinet.

To prop up its credibility and mask its rot, every oppressive and corrupt regime needs a few God-fearing, decent, honest, brilliant men and women of seemingly unshakable character. Neri was a logical choice. It is unfortunate that he fell for an evil tendency that most of us relish but refuse to admit—self-exaltation. His high opinion of himself led him to believe he can do a good job at CHEd where he is stretching his expertise too far. Now he thinks he is doing the right thing in protecting the very people who insulted him while he was at the Neda, by keeping his silence. It is my hope and plea that Neri would wake up to what his scheming friends have been up to all along before he finally shuts the door on his redemption.

—ANTONIO NANTES GUEVARA,
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Sta. Rosa City, Laguna 4026

Odd explanation

ACCORDING TO AN INQUIRER report, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo denied having pointed his finger at Joey de Venecia and having told him to "Back off!" (INQUIRER, 10/3/07) He claimed he didn't know De Venecia well enough to confront the latter during a chance encounter at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Yet in the same breath, he confirmed that he warned De Venecia that the latter might be criminally liable under the anti-graft law.

Odd. If De Venecia was indeed a stranger to the First Gentleman, why did President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband remind the young man of a potential conflict of interest?

—ROBIN PIGUE,
Sycamore Tower,
Dansalan Gardens,
Mandaluyong City

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ENTLEMAN

MEMBERS of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, wearing Benjamin Abalos and Jose Miguel Arroyo masks, introduce a new alphabet song regarding the controversial $329-million ZTE deal.

FILE PHOTO

ZTE-NBN: a diversionary ploy by the administration?

IS THE ZTE-NBN DEAL JUST ANother extravaganza? I suspect it is, staged by no less than the Arroyo administration, and the opposition and the public have once again been taken in.

Hasn't anyone been wondering why all of a sudden the deal was out in the open, about the same time as Joseph Estrada's conviction?

Hasn't anyone been wondering why it took Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo only a few days to suspend the deal, so easily, as if she were just suspending classes in elementary schools due to a typhoon?

Hasn't anyone been wondering why of all the people it was Jose de Venecia III, the son of a very close ally of GMA, who had to expose the deal?

Hasn't anyone been wondering why in the Senate hearings on the NBN deal the top brass of the executive department has been quite cooperative?

Hasn't anyone been wondering why Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos has been the fall guy in this deal?

I am not wondering. I believe that the Arroyo administration has a threefold agenda in this deal:

1. To make money. Thus the reported overpricing and bribery. As to how we can get to the bottom of these allegations, it is uncertain. What is now clear is that there's bad money in the deal;

2. To divert public attention from the conviction of Estrada. And it seems the Arroyo administration has achieved this objective. Even the media can't seem to get enough of the banner stories; and

3. To kick out Abalos. He has failed the Arroyo administration. As Comelec chair, he failed to contain the Garci scandal. Also, in the last elections, opposition candidates won over GMA's bets.

GMA has quite mastered the art of staging and directing lavish shows—take note of perfect timing, blocking and acting. No wonder she remains the leading lady of the Philippine government despite all the scandals that have engulfed her presidency.

With regard to De Venecia III, he is in safe hands. In fact, he is the one who has benefited the most from this deal. He is now the star of the show, the idol, the hero. The next Speaker of the House?

—ULYSSES GUEVARRA,
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Water sector privatization a failure

MOST RECENTLY, LOCAL WATER Utilities Administration's Orlando Hondrade, former LWUA board chair Francisco Dumpit and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Services' Lorenzo Jamora were sacked by Malacañang for dishonesty, funds misappropriation and illegal advances.

While we appreciate this unexpected move of the Palace, we ask ourselves: Is corruption the only issue worth investigating? If we look 10 years back, these three did something far worse than the irregularities for which they were dismissed.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition has conducted research to assess the viability of water sector privatization. And in the past 10 years, it has been watching the "progress" and "achievements" of MWSS privatization. All that the program has come up with are "unmet service obligations" and "failed hopes." The public may feel that there is now better service. But there's more to the laying of pipes than meets the eye. There's the 562-percent increase in Maynilad's rates and the 792-percent increase in Manila Water's rates since 1997, despite their promise not to increase their rates significantly in their first 10 years of operation. There's Maynilad's 62-percent non-revenue water (NRW) in 2007, despite its target of only 16 percent. And there's the two utilities' non-accountability; they are considered "mere agents and contractors" by the MWSS board of trustees.

—ELA MARIANO,
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BIR clarifies 'updates' on Pall Mall

THIS REFERS TO THE SEPT. 24 column of Neal Cruz on his "update" on the tax classification of locally manufactured Pall Mall cigarettes. Allow us to put things in clear perspective:

1. The leadership change at the Bureau of Internal Revenue had nothing to do with former BIR commissioner Mario Buñag's insistence on his ruling "retaining the excise tax on imported Pall Mall for the locally manufactured Pall Mall." Official records show that as of end-May, the BIR had incurred a collection shortfall of P26 billion. This further increased to P38.6 billion by end-June. These figures represent the actual revenue performance of the BIR.

2. It is true that the "Buñag memorandum to Teves dated June 13" did not recommend a reversal of the former BIR commissioner's ruling; but, as Cruz himself pointed out, it was a "report on the price survey conducted on Pall Mall cigarettes to resolve the issue on its proper classification." More accurately, Buñag's June 13, 2007 letter clearly stated that "based on the results of the Dec. 22, 2006 price survey of Pall Mall and its variants, the average net retail price thereof—excluding the value-added and excise taxes—was P6.15 per pack with the applicable tax rate of P6.35 (now P6.74) per pack.

3. The price survey was conducted by the BIR itself in compliance with Sec. 145 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended, precisely to determine the tax classification of the locally manufactured Pall Mall brands. This price survey is central to the whole issue of tax classification; there should be no attempt to put the significance of survey results in a diminished context. It is the sense of the law that there can be no classification of a new brand of cigarettes without conducting a price survey.

4. On taking issue with the "power of the finance undersecretary" to render the disputed ruling, Cruz may have in mind Sec. 4 of the NIRC, which provides that the power to interpret the provisions of this Code and other tax laws shall be under the exclusive and original jurisdiction of the commissioner, subject to review by the secretary of finance. It is a settled judicial doctrine that when an undersecretary, in this instance the DOF undersecretary for Legal and Revenue Operations Group, signs "By authority of the Secretary," the same has the force and effect of a resolution signed by the secretary himself.

5. In this light, a finance undersecretary has the "power to rule on the classification of cigarette brands" or "the power to reverse a ruling by the internal revenue commissioner." The review power of the secretary (or by an undersecretary acting "By authority of the Secretary") under Sec. 4 of the NIRC means that a ruling by the commissioner shall be presumed valid until overturned or modified by the secretary of finance (DOF Department Order No. 7-02).

6. The disputed classification ruling was signed by the finance undersecretary, not by the secretary himself as Cruz would have wanted it, because, under the NIRC, that was within his authority as undersecretary for Legal and Revenue Operations Group.

—GAUDENCIO A. MENDOZA JR.,
undersecretary,
Legal and Revenue
Operations Group,
Department of Finance

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Farmers kept landless 10 yrs after Bukidnon hunger strike

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TEN YEARS AGO, HUNDREDS of Higaonon farmers went on hunger strike in Sumilao town in Bukidnon to demand the immediate redistribution of an estate owned by a powerful family.

The emotion-filled protest, which dragged for several days, gave face to the harsh realities confronting tenants who dream of owning the land they till under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

And the government's response proved to be the litmus test of how the CARP would fare when covering plantation estates and other large landholdings, at least in Mindanao.

Today, the same farmers will commemorate those fateful days, many of them still landless and struggling to acquire possession of the 144-hectare Quisumbing Estate. At 4 a.m., they will begin a two-month-long march from Sumilao to Manila to dramatize their demand to be finally installed in the disputed estate.

March

"This will be all walk," said Oliver Villa, media officer of the nongovernment Balaod Mindanaw which has been assisting the farmers.

The protesters and their supporters are expected to arrive in this city tomorrow. They will march to Surigao and push for Manila via the Pan-Philippine Highway. They are expected to arrive in Manila in time for the observance of International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

The controversial Sumilao Estate has been the subject of intense legal and political battle between 167 farmer-beneficiaries and the Quisumbing family since 1997 when it was placed under CARP.

Fight for land

Although the farmers have obtained certificates of land ownership awards (Cloas), the Quisumbing family was able to get approval for the estate's conversion from purely agricultural production to agri-industrial use. The conversion provided an avenue for eluding the program's coverage.

On Aug. 25, 1999, the Supreme Court ruled with finality on the land-use conversion. Under the CARP's implementing rules, the estate's owners have five years to implement the new land-use plan.

But according to lawyer Jennifer Ramos of Balaod Mindanaw, the family has not done anything to actually convert the estate's usage for agri-industrial purposes until the five-year period lapsed in 2004.

No conversion

This now entitles the farmer-beneficiaries the right to demand implementation of the CARP coverage, Ramos explained.

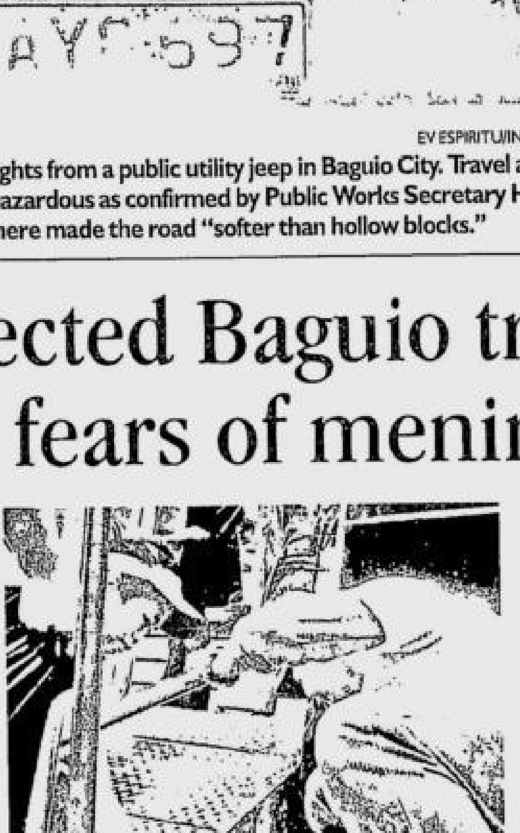
Resistance to land reform came in various forms.

In Negros Occidental, a farmers' group said an estate owned by the family of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was reclassified to evade CARP.

JEEP STOP EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
A Cordillera woman alights from a public utility jeep in Baguio City. Travel along the Halsema Highway has become hazardous as confirmed by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane who said contractors there made the road "softer than hollow blocks."

Uncollected Baguio trash revives fears of meningo

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer N. Luzon



VOLUNTEERS help pick up trash in Baguio City after officials refused to collect unsegregated garbage. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—THE city's policy to stop collecting unsegregated garbage has revived fears of a reemergence of another meningococcemia crisis that brought Baguio to its knees two years ago.

Because of the policy, the city has experienced a garbage crisis of sorts as uncollected trash littered alleys and streets not only in the downtown area but also in villages here.

But Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said on Monday he would be "relentless" in pursuing his "no-segregation, no-collection" program after health officials assured him they had no data linking an unsanitary environment to the fatal meningitis strain that hit Baguio residents in 2004 and 2005.

The Baguio Community of Volunteers, a civic group composed of businessmen, Japanese residents and Baguio old timers, feared that the uncollected garbage left for a week in the downtown area may trigger a reemergence of the disease.

On Saturday, they hauled off the trash themselves.

On the same night, some of city's recycling operators also segregated and collected garbage that had piled up at the entrance of the city's public market.

But the World Health Organization had not been able to determine what had ignited Baguio's meningococcemia outbreak, said Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, Cordillera director of the Department of Health.

It was the first time this information was made public since panic triggered by the outbreak weakened the local economy. Tourists and businessmen refused to travel to the summer capital for fear of contracting the disease.

ROUNDUP

Vaccination target: 400,000 kids

TACLOBAN CITY—Health regional officials plan to vaccinate some 400,000 children aged 4 years and below in a month-long campaign starting Oct. 15.

The vaccines will be available in barangay health centers, public plazas and markets, Dr. Eduardo Pedrosa, regional coordinator of the Department of Health's "Ligtas Tigdas" campaign, said.

Beneficiaries are children who are 9 months up to 4 years old, or those born from Oct. 15, 2003, to Jan. 15, 2007.

In 2003, the DOH gave anti-measles vaccine to 160,789 children.

Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

Bayan Muna exec turns self in

BAGUIO CITY—A Bayan Muna official has surrendered to police after learning that a warrant of arrest would be served against him in connection with an attack by communist rebels on soldiers in Bontoc, Mt. Province, in 2004.

A police report, however, said Jose Cawiding, 42, was arrested on Abanao St. on Oct. 1 while he was on his way home after attending a meeting at the Baguio Justice Hall.

Police have charged Cawiding, 42, Bayan Muna coordinator here, with eight counts of murder on suspicion that he was one of the New People's Army (NPA) rebels involved in the attack.

Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NPAs abduct village exec

DAVAO CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels abducted a village official before they raided a military detachment in Montevista town in Compostela Valley on Sunday.

Maj. Medel Aguilar, commander of the 5th Civil Relation Group of the Eastern Mindanao Command, said the rebels used a village official as their bait to gain entry to a military detachment in Barangay Kanigid in Montevista, before surprising the military and militiamen.

"They resorted to treachery," Aguilar said.

Maj. Rodrigo Sosmeña, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command, identified the abducted village chair as a certain Mahumas.

Dennis Jay Santos and Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Banana firms threaten to move out

DAVAO CITY—Banana companies here dropped hints they will move their plantations to other parts of Mindanao should they finally lose the battle against the city government's ban on aerial spraying.

Last week, Judge Renato Fuentes of the Regional Trial Court Branch 17 trashed the petition of the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) to overthrow the ban, which they claimed was unconstitutional and detrimental to their business.

The ban was passed by the city council in March after a series of investigations that confirmed the deterioration of health of those living near banana plantations.

Judy Quiros with a report from Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao

Panlilio forgives attacker

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio has forgiven the man who tried to stab him as he was being interviewed by reporters at the provincial capitol's lobby on Monday.

The suspect, Rafael "Doy" Enriquez, and his mother, Cathy, showed up at the governor's office at past 4 p.m., also on Monday, to apologize. They were accompanied by policemen who, after more than six hours of search, tracked down Enriquez in their house in Barangay Sta. Lucia here.

"I felt pity for him," Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, said of Enriquez. The mother said her son was suffering from "schizophrenic disorder."

"He was spurned by a girl he loved," she said of why her son has been emotionally unstable for some months now.

She said a private psychiatrist in Pilar, Bataan, has been attending to her son.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

P1.4-M in narra seized

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Government authorities confiscated a truckload of undocumented narra flitches worth P1.4 million in an anti-illegal logging operation in Pili, Camarines Sur on Monday, the spokesman of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command said here Thursday.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, citing a belated report, said Philippine Navy operatives, police and Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel flagged down a 10-wheel truck with license plate CTW-528 at a checkpoint in Barangay San Jose along the Maharlika Highway.

When searched, the truck yielded 21.9 cubic meters (9,300 board feet) of narra flitches with an estimated market value at P1.4 million.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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•Chong Hua Hospital
•Cebu Doctors Hospital

Davao:
•Davao Doctors Hospital

EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

DANGER ZONE
Land and rock slides along the Halsema Highway are a bane for Benguet vegetable traders, especially during this harvest season. Farmers lucky enough to hurdle these slides would be making a killing at the La Trinidad Trading Post but those who were stranded leave their produce along the road rather than return home with them.

Gov orders engineer, board member to shed light on graft report

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—FED UP WITH REports of wrongdoing at the Capitol, Gov. Victor Tanco Sr. has ordered at least two provincial officials to explain their involvement in alleged irregularities.

Tanco, in a memorandum issued on Friday, gave the acting head of the provincial engineer's office (PEO), Ernesto Agulto, three days to shed light on allegations that construction materials chargeable to the provincial government were delivered to a private person.

The governor issued a separate memorandum to provincial board member Vincent Fritz Cruz-Am to explain why a red-plate government vehicle issued to him was seen at a drive-in motel in Iloilo City on Sept. 23.

Tanco, a former three-term vice governor, also vowed to investigate how an employee of the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) was still able to receive his salary while already out of the country.

Agulto, in his reply on Tuesday, said he himself was "surprised" to learn that the construction materials were delivered to the house of a Carmen Castillo at Sunshine Village in Banica, this city. He denied having any business or personal transaction with the woman.

Castillo had earlier told local reporters that the materials were given to her by Agulto.

Cruz-Am, for his part, said he did not know that his driver had brought the government-issued vehicle to the motel, where it was seen by Iloilo-based reporters.

Tanco said he would thoroughly consider the responses of the two officials before making his final decision.

He directed provincial legal officer Jose Villanueva to recommend actions to be taken against erring officials and employees.

The governor said he would consult the Civil Service Commission on what action to take against data comptroller Ronald Bulaquiña who failed to tender his resignation before going abroad.

Military won't recognize Church peace zones

LUCENA CITY—THERE'S NO such thing as peace zones in areas that have become battlefields of government soldiers and communist guerrillas, according to Southern Luzon's highest military official.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana, Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief, said the military would not recognize the peace zones declared by various groups to protect civilians from crossfire.

"I do not believe in peace zone. I do not agree with that," said Obaniana.

"We do not want to happen that the so-called peace zone area will eventually become a sanctuary of the NPA (New People's Army)," he said during his first press conference with reporters here last week.

Legitimate army

"We are the only legitimate armed forces so there should be no such thing as unilateral declaration of peace zones in any areas where we could not go or the NPA," he said.

"Can they assure us that the NPA will not go there without firearms? Does that mean that once inside the peace zone, we could no longer make arrest? That our hands are tied once we step inside the peace zone?" Obaniana asked.

He cited his experiences with declared peace zones in Mindanao.

"After sometime, that area already became the sanctuary of the NPA, those armed and unarmed communist personalities," said Obaniana, former chief of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command.

Dismay

Bishop Rolado Tria Tirona, head of the Prelature of Infanta based in northern Quezon, and the Church-based multisectoral group Kapatirang Alay sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan or Kaakbay-Quezon, reacted with dismay over Obaniana's statements.

"I'm sorry to hear that. But he has to understand and respect the people's deep longing for peace," Tirona said in a phone interview.

The bishop said peace zones were not just areas without armed conflicts, but also with people who are active in promoting nonviolence.

Tirona said declaring areas as peace zones was not meant to bar soldiers from entering.

"They could even go there for their R and R (rest and recreation)," said Tirona.

Leave us alone

"The people living inside the peace zone areas do not expect both parties (AFP and NPA) to understand the peace zone declaration," said Kaakbay-Quezon in a statement.

"What they (the villagers) appeal is for the armed protagonists to respect their sincere desire to live in peace," it said.

In a pastoral letter he issued in March, Tirona called on the military and communist rebels to respect the peace zone declared by the Church, local government units of Infanta and General Nakar and different sectoral groups three years ago.

The local government and residents of Real have also recently declared their municipality a zone of peace to spare themselves from clashes between government troops and communist rebels.

Mt. Banahaw became a war zone in December 2005 when government soldiers and NPA rebels fought running gun battles there.

Civilians were among at least 20 fatalities in the gunfights.

Sariaya Councilor Alex Tolentino said settlers in mountain villages had now turned to farming and wanted to be left in peace.

"There's a real climate of peace in the mountain. Their farm harvest is bountiful. Let us all allow and respect their peaceful existence," Tolentino said in a phone interview. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Ifugaos raise funds for murdered RP maid

BAGUIO CITY—IFUGAO PEOple overseas have launched a fund drive to raise $15,000 to bring home the body of a 27-year-old Filipino maid who was found murdered in a Canadian suburb this week.

Canadian newspaper accounts about the Oct. 1 death of Jocelyn Dulnuan of Barangay Namuldita in Hingyon, Ifugao, had been sketchy, except to state that her body was discovered by her Mississauga City employer and that the police had confirmed that she "died from foul play."

Anthony Basil, Cordillera case officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), said Dulnuan's case had been forwarded to Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Cornejos, who handles the Department of Foreign Affairs' migrant workers affairs desk.

Undocumented

Basil said the government was working out the repatriation of Dulnuan's remains, after learning that the victim was an unprocessed overseas worker in Canada.

Dulnuan was deployed to Hong Kong last year, Basil said, citing her welfare fund membership records. "It is actually a trend. Overseas workers fly to Hong Kong and then seek Canadian entry soon after," he said.

She was employed in Mississauga by Vasdev Chanchlani, chief financial officer of the Toronto-based software developer Sigma Global Solution. Chanchlani's wife Jayshree is a doctor in the city.

Basil said the government would pursue the investigation, regardless of Dulnuan's work circumstances.

Red tape

Toronto-based Imelda Belanger, Dulnuan's distant cousin, complained in an e-mail letter that Philippine red tape had barred embassy officials from handling her cousin's case.

Belanger sought help online instead, claiming that the Philippine consulate there had "been of no help at all."

"They said that she is not registered [by] Owwa. So what would they do to OFWs who are not registered? Dump them in the river?" she said in her letter.

"So at the moment, we are depending on the good hearts of citizens to raise over $15,000 to send the body home ... I am asking help from the Filipino associations and I just hope they will help," she wrote.

Response to her plea has been forthcoming. Filipino weblogs have announced a fund-raising event on Saturday for Dulnuan, which is sponsored by the Filipino-Canadian community. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

JOCELYN Dulnuan, 27, of Hingyon, Ifugao, in a photo posted in her Friendster account. Dulnuan, a housekeeper, was found dead in the house of her employer in Mississauga in Ontario, Canada. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Police claim busting big cybersex gang

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Police arrested what it described as "one of the biggest cybersex operators in Central Luzon" in simultaneous raids in Porac, Pampanga, on Thursday night.

Senior Supt. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) regional director, said the suspect's name was revealed to the provincial prosecutor but was not disclosed to reporters to keep up with a provision of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (Republic Act No. 9208).

The raids on the suspect's two houses in Barangay Sta. Cruz in Porac yielded 13 computers, three computer monitors, 11 webcams, P85,580 and $1,000.

Two women were rescued in the raids authorized through two search warrants issued by Judge Napoleon Sta. Romana of the regional trial court in Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

They reported being paid P20 per minute to perform pornographic acts online through www.asianbabes.com.

Eleazar said the suspect's name had cropped up in previous raids by the CIDG. His business partner, a woman, has remained at large.

Before the raids in Porac, the CIDG had raided at least five cybersex shops, mostly in nearby Angeles City. Eight suspected operators were arrested.

Eleazar said the local cybersex industry had changed modus operandi by scaling down activities. Instead of maintaining a dozen or more prostituted women in one shop located in residential subdivisions in cities, the operators kept two women in their wings and relocated the shops outside of cities like Porac.

"They managed to escape the suspicions of residents through that scheme," Eleazar told the INQUIRER. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Amputations, loss of leg on the rise, says doc

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The number of Filipinos born without legs or had limbs cut off due to diabetes and other reasons had reached about 1.2 million in 2002 and it is at an "uphill trend," according to a doctor from the Physicians for Peace (PFP).

"There are no current statistics but we can infer from the number of patients undergoing amputations in two of the government's biggest hospitals that [the number is] rising," said Dr. Josephine Bundoc, coordinator of the PFP.

Daily amputations

Bundoc's group and Gov. Eddie Panlilio launched the "Walking Free Pampanga" at the Social Action Center of Pampanga (Sacop) here on Saturday.

Bundoc said the Philippine General Hospital handles at least one amputation surgery daily while the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital deals with two cases daily.

Data from the government-run Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (formerly V. Luna Hospital) and Veterans Memorial Medical Center, and private hospitals and clinics specializing in amputations, were not immediately available.

During Saturday's launch, 129 amputees came for screening to get free artificial limbs from funds being raised by the PFP, provincial and local governments, Kapampangan Development Foundation, Rotary Club and other civic organizations.

Bundoc said the leading cause of amputation is diabetes and the resulting gangrene from wounds that do not heal. More than half of the patients on Sunday cited the same cause.

Some people are born without legs and this congenital problem is a result of, among other things, high level of exposure to pesticides, she said.

The rest are caused by accidents, tumors and infections.

Bundoc said not all amputees are able to get artificial limbs or, if they get these at all, make do with heavy fake legs that are cheaper.

Cheaper limbs

This was because the modern artificial legs, which come with silicone lining and metal braces, cost at least P110,000 each, she said.

Bundoc said the PFP and the Rotary Club help the PGH give those at P10,000 each through the aid of private donors.

But even indigent patients could not afford that amount, she said.

In the case of those who came to the launch, they have coped with the disability by using wooden or metal crutches or wheelchairs.

Having one leg is fraught with taunting, as 8-year-old Roxanne Navarette found out.

"My classmates call me *pilay* (lame)," said this girl who lost her leg when a van hit her three years ago.

Her mother, Rosalita, said she has prodded her daughter to be thankful that she survived the accident.

Life and limb

Pablo Martin, an amputee and who leads the Amputees Support Group, said artificial limbs help him to resume productive lives.

Martin, 54, and Virginia Recaña, 52, help in PFP's missions to "inspire amputees to go on."

Panlilio said he hoped that "this effort of ours will be empowering to you in the physical and spiritual sense."

Began in 2005, the PFP's "Walking Free Philippines" has helped 1,453 amputees, and more than 700 of them have received artificial legs. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

GMA says political noise won't stop her from creating jobs

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said no amount of political distractions would divert her from trying to improve the lives of ordinary Filipinos.

Speaking in her native Kapampangan here, Ms Arroyo said: "No amount of political noise can stop us from implementing our most important initiatives in helping create more enterprises and increase earnings and create millions and millions of jobs for our people."

She addressed some 5,000 people, mostly students, in the Pampanga leg of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship's "Go Negosyo."

"We will continue empowering our people so that they may be able to grab the opportunities that are being made aware by Go Negosyo," Ms Arroyo said.

Quoting the PCE's founding trustee, Jose Concepcion III, in his assessment of the economy, Ms Arroyo said the "current benign stable growth condition can start a wave of entrepreneurial activities in the Philippines."

11 awardees

"We see signs of these happening not only in Pampanga but in several areas where we have promoted a new entrepreneurial class," she said.

Ms Arroyo led other officials in giving awards to 11 thriving enterprises in Pampanga.

These are the Angeles University Foundation, Betis Crafts, Bank of Florida, Sasmuan Delicacies, Pampanga Sugar Development Co., Mekeni Meat Products, Pampanga's Best, Nepomuceno Group of Companies, Razon's Halo-Halo, Hausland Development Corp. and the Savers Group of Companies.

Ms Arroyo, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, Concepcion and Presidential Management Staff Director General Cerge Remonde handed the awards.

Ms Arroyo said the estimated four million entrepreneurs, including the awardees, had received P80 billion in microfinancing loans in the last six years.

Targeting OFWs

The government has also released more than P100 million to 50,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) since 2004, Ms Arroyo said, adding that the government has also cut red tape for business applications of SMEs.

Go Negosyo should also focus on the overseas Filipino workers group in this new initiative, Ms Arroyo said.

She said a "broad middle class" would be "one of the legacies" of her administration.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo speaks before students at the "Go Negosyo" awarding rites in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Miriam sees Palace ploy in impeachment case

From page A1

in love and politics and there is nothing the opposition can do about this," Santiago said with a hearty laughter.

Complaint without sense

Sen. Francis Pangilinan also dismissed Pulido's move as nothing but a maneuver to insulate Ms Arroyo from a more serious impeachment complaint since no two impeachment cases may be heard within the same year.

"We will not agree to this kind of maneuver where anyone can just file a case with the House of Representatives even if the complaint has no sense," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II said that the Senate was already gearing up for the resumption of its probe into the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) project awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

Faced with a burgeoning scandal, Ms Arroyo has canceled the deal with ZTE.

Affidavit will do

Roxas said that if the Senate could not compel the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, to testify, it might be satisfied with a sworn statement from him.

The senator said the hearings would not be a total waste, especially if Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri would attend again. "His testimony is important and if he invokes executive privilege again, it will be our chance to bring the case to the Supreme Court."

At the House of Representatives, congressmen yesterday confronted their colleague, Rep. Edgar San Luis, over his endorsement of Pulido's complaint.

San Luis, the lone endorser of the complaint, took the floor only to be grilled by his fellow legislators.

Reminder to San Luis

"Are you prepared to tell me now that in your heart of hearts, the President is guilty, not only of a (simple) crime, but a crime so serious that it cries to the heavens?" Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora asked the Laguna lawmaker during an interpellation.

San Luis had delivered a privilege speech maintaining that he was not acting in behalf of Malacañang when he endorsed Pulido's complaint.

"I'm not picking a fight here," he said in Filipino. "I am not campaigning for you to join me and endorse the complaint as well. I'm here to invite you to open the doors to the truth."

Zamora reminded San Luis, a neophyte lawmaker, about the consequence of an endorsement—a year-long immunity for Ms Arroyo against another, and possibly more serious, impeachment complaint.

Disallowed by rules

Under the rules, an impeachable official can be the subject of only one impeachment complaint within a one-year period. The count starts when a case is filed and referred to the committee on justice.

Zamora and other opposition lawmakers were apparently wary that a "weak" complaint would steal the thunder from a stronger complaint.

This was what happened with the first impeachment case against Ms Arroyo filed two years ago by Lozano, who beat the minority bloc to the draw.

"We won't let the process get bastardized yet again," Zamora said in a press conference.

One opposition lawmaker said Pulido's two-page complaint made the Lozano impeachment case appear far more legitimate.

Locsin: 'Frivolous, trivial'

"I've never seen a complaint as frivolous, as trivial as this," Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. told San Luis during his interpellation.

Locsin, a lawyer, picked the Pulido complaint apart and asked why, despite its seeming "frivolity," it still won support from San Luis.

San Luis maintained that he only wanted the public to know the truth about the $329-million NBN deal and whether Ms Arroyo had committed any wrongdoing.

Locsin countered: "The honorable gentleman has endorsed this impeachment complaint in the hope that we shall find out whether (the allegations are) true or not, not because he believes these allegations are true. Is that correct?"

San Luis meekly replied: "I'm not a judge who can easily come up with a decision. There should be a proper forum to allow the truth to come out."

Wrong committee

In this case, Locsin said the Pulido complaint should be referred not to the committee on justice, which would determine its sufficiency in form and substance, but to the committee on good government.

"If you are searching for truth about an alleged government anomaly, you should go to the committee on good government," he told San Luis.

Locsin lectured the Laguna representative on the consequences of his endorsement.

"We must assume that by endorsing this complaint, he adopts each and every one of its allegations as sufficient to sustain a complaint against a constitutional officer," Locsin said.

San Luis took his seat and refused to accommodate further interpellation.

Lozano then, Pulido now?

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS ROEL PULIDO THE NEW OLIVER Lozano?

The man behind the latest impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo may have earned the unenviable tag, judging from the way congressmen have alternately questioned the motive behind his complaint.

Pulido is not amused with the reference to Lozano, author of two previous, ill-starred impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo. Lozano's cases were condemned by the opposition for preventing minority congressmen from filing a stronger complaint, which they believed would have had better chances of unseating Ms Arroyo.

"The difference is that when he (Lozano) filed his complaint, he knew very well that the minority was preparing one already," Pulido told the INQUIRER yesterday. "In my case, what did I preempt?"

He said he took the initiative to hold Ms Arroyo accountable for her actions in connection with the $329-million National Broadband Network scandal.

"It's unfortunate that there's been a lot of talk regarding my motive," he said. "But this is not about me, this is about the President."

Pulido said he was open to "improving" his two-page complaint and accommodate contributions from the minority bloc.

Bribery raps vs Palace mar impeach-GMA bid

From page A1

party-list group yesterday claimed a Malacañang "functionary" had offered him P2 million to endorse the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

Opposition lawmakers said the purpose of the offer was to gain enough support for what they believed was a "weak" impeachment case against Ms Arroyo filed by private lawyer Roel Pulido—and thus prevent the filing of a more formidable complaint against the President later.

The lawmakers said they were also approached to support the Pulido complaint but, like Beltran, they rebuffed the offer.

Like Beltran, they also did not identify who the supposed emissary was.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno dismissed what he called the "story-telling" of some House members, and said those making the latest bribe allegations had a "credibility problem."

"Anybody can say anything. But why is just this being disclosed now? Why did they not immediately disclose this?" Puno said in a phone interview.

The alleged bribe offer came a little over two weeks after former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri told a Senate inquiry that he had been offered P200 million to support the award of a government contract for the National Broadband Network project to China's ZTE Corp.

Former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. denied Neri's claim that the offer came from him but later resigned his post and threatened to sue Neri for libel.

Initial offer was P1M

Beltran, one of the House members who had reported the smallest net worth, said he wanted to punch the supposed Palace emissary in the face.

He revealed the offer when he spoke on the House floor and in media interviews later.

He said the unidentified emissary initially dangled P1 million at him in exchange for his signing the Pulido complaint, and that the amount was later raised to P2 million.

"It was as if he was bargaining with my principles," said Beltran.

The Pulido complaint was seen by the opposition as a ploy to "immunize" Ms Arroyo from a more substantial impeachment case that may arise as Congress probes into the allegedly anomalous $329-million ZTE contract.

Ms Arroyo has scrapped the deal.

3 emissaries

"From what we gather, there are at least three persons who went around and asked for signatures," House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora told the INQUIRER.

"Of (the six members of the minority) who were asked to sign, some were also offered money … The most important thing is our members flatly refused," Zamora said.

He said he and the rest of the minority were gathering more information about the people who approached the lawmakers, offering money in some cases, before identifying them.

"We will come up with an announcement (of these identities) at the appropriate time," Zamora said.

The opposition leader would not say if they were people from Malacañang, or perhaps members of the House.

"This is not the end of this," he said.

Often seen in House

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez on Saturday told the INQUIRER a Malacañang "official" had asked him to sign Pulido's impeachment complaint. Yesterday, he said he was not offered any money.

"I suppose you know him. He is from Malacañang but is often in the House," Rodriguez said. "I can't tell you his name because he approached me in confidence."

Like Beltran, Rodriguez told the floor that he was approached by a person close to the Palace.

A member of the House minority said the person who made the offer was a "party leader" of the administration party Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino.

'Offer was a lump sum'

Two members of Kampi—party president Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing—said over the weekend that Kampi didn't have anything to do with a supposed plan to "immunize" Ms Arroyo from a serious impeachment case.

Laguna Rep. Dan Fernandez, a member of the administration-backed Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas who chose to side with the opposition in the House, said he was also approached by a person close to Malacañang.

"The offer was a lump sum," Fernandez said, refusing to go into the specifics. He added that there was a passing mention of building projects in his district.

Another Laguna lawmaker, Justin Chipeco, said he and some others were also approached for their signatures.

"I flatly rejected signing the complaint before talk involved money," he said.

Chipeco said impeachment complaints didn't appear substantial enough to merit even a consideration for endorsement.

Pursued from house

Beltran said the person who made the offer first went to his house in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan but missed him. In the afternoon, the person approached him at the session hall and "the offer was already P2 million."

Zamora said people should not lose sight of the issue—which was that there was an attempt to shield Ms Arroyo from a solid impeachment complaint.

He said the House minority had been burned twice before for supporting an impeachment complaint that was later dismissed because of the sheer number of majority congressmen.

An impeachment complaint endorsed by a congressman and referred to the House committee on justice proscribes the filing of another impeachment case against the same impeachable official for the next 365 days.

"We are just hoping for a gift from heaven that the complaint will not be referred (to the committee) or is withdrawn," Zamora said.

Sick of politics

The Pulido complaint is the third impeachment case filed against President Arroyo. The two others sprang from the so-called "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal involving election cheating.

As far as Malacañang is concerned, the new impeachment case is a "nonissue" and it will not get anywhere.

"The latest impeachment saga is just another distraction that the President will ignore," her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said.

Bunye assailed Ms Arroyo's detractors for trying to take the country three steps back "everytime the nation takes two steps forward on its path to economic growth and political stability."

"The people of the nation are sick and tired of too much politics," he said.

Graft raps filed vs De Venecia, son on NBN deal

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FIRST GRAFT COMPLAINT AGAINST Speaker Jose De Venecia and his son on their alleged links to the $329-million National Broadband Network deal was filed yesterday at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Lawyer Roel Pulido accused the Speaker of six counts of violating the antigraft law when he concealed his son's financial interest in a telecommunications company—the Multi-Media Telephony Inc. (MTI)—that was granted a legislative franchise during his second term as House leader.

The Speaker's son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III—owner of the MTI and the co-founder of the Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI)—was also charged with five counts of graft for repeatedly applying for and obtaining a legislative franchise in violation of laws prohibiting relatives of the country's high-ranking officials from intervening in any transaction or contract with the government.

Political ploy

The young De Venecia immediately dismissed Pulido's charges as a "political ploy." In a phone interview with Inquirer.net, Joey said he saw the hand of "higher ups" and his father's enemies in the case.

The young De Venecia, sparked a controversy last month when he accused (then) Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos of under-the-table dealings with the Chinese ZTE group that won the NBN contract; and the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of being Abalos' backer.

Pulido, former counsel for rebel soldiers accused in the so-called Oakwood mutiny, is the same complainant in the impeachment case filed in the House of Representatives last week against President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the NBN deal. He also filed a separate complaint against the Speaker before the House committee on ethics.

Conflict of interest

In his complaint before the Ombudsman, Pulido alleged that violations were committed when the young De Venecia obtained a legislative franchise for MTI in 1995, sought its affirmation, then obtained an amended franchise for MTI in 1997.

Joey's submission of a proposal by AHI for the NBN project was the latest offense, Pulido said.

In stressing the culpability of the Speaker, Pulido said De Venecia could not deny his knowledge of his son's interest in both MTI and AHI as the former had touted Joey as the "father of broadband in the Philippines and Southeast Asia."

Criminally liable

Pulido said the Speaker should be held criminally liable "for his indispensable cooperation that allowed his son to illegally intervene in a government contract, particularly:

- for organizing a breakfast meeting between Abalos and his son to discuss the deal;
- for privately and publicly endorsing his son's bid for the NBN project;
- for arranging a meeting between Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and his son so as to allow the former to endorse the business proposal to the latter.

If convicted, the Speaker and his son could face 50 to 60 years years in prison, or 10 years for each count, perpetual disqualification from public office, and confiscation or forfeiture of any prohibited interests, a press statement from the Pulido and Associates Law Office said.

Who else?

Responding to the new charges, the young De Venecia said "This [Pulido] guy is being used by the higher ups to destroy the credibility of my father and me."

"This is just political for me. There is political color here," Joey said.

Asked to identify the "higher ups" he was referring to, Joey pointed to the Speaker's enemies in the House.

"Those who want to remove him as Speaker. Those who want to control the House. *Sino pa ba* (Who else)? But it's up to my father *kung lalabanan niya itong mga ito* (if he will fight these people)," he said.

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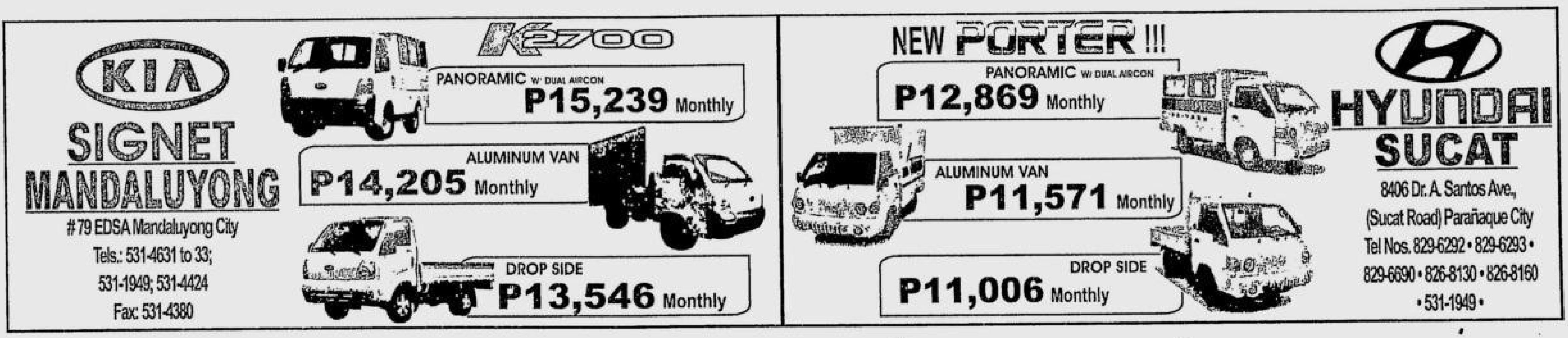
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DID YOU KNOW

THE MANILA Post Office in Liwasang Bonifacio is considered one of the country's architectural icons. Done in the neoclassic style, the structure was completed in 1926 by Juan Arellano, one of the founding fathers of architecture in the Philippines.

The Manila Post Office was bombed by Americans in 1945 in their attempt to liberate the city from the Japanese. It was rebuilt after World War II.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

'Harmful chemicals in water supply'

Environment group Greenpeace says assessment part of continuing research

By TJ Burgonio

SAMPLES OF TAP AND BOTTLED WATER TAKEN FROM some areas in Metro Manila and Bulacan province contain "volatile organic chemicals" and high levels of metals, based on the results of a study conducted by environmental group Greenpeace.

"Bottled water purchased in Metro Manila contained higher than usual levels of zinc," it added.

"It seems the Philippines is facing an inevitable water crisis," Greenpeace campaigns director Von Hernandez said yesterday. "Despite the plethora of laws and regulations designed to protect our water sources, we feel this situation is expected to worsen."

The study, according to Hernandez, was part of their continuing research on the quality of water in the country.

Greenpeace toxics campaigner Beau Baconguis said they found harmful chemicals and above normal levels of metals in tap water samples collected from Caloocan, Manila and Quezon City.

These chemicals were trihalomethanes, tricholorethene and dichloropropene, she added.

She explained that a groundwater sample taken from an area close to the Payatas landfill in Quezon City contained trihalomethanes and an elevated zinc level.

In Bulacan province, on the other hand, one of two tap water samples taken contained trihalomethanes and a relatively high level of zinc, Baconguis said.

Trihalomethanes, according to the Internet, "are a group of four chemicals that are formed ... when chlorine and other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter."

The chemicals have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

Tricholorethene, on the hand, is a solvent used in factories which can cause dizziness and damage to the central nervous system when inhaled in large quantities.

Dichloropropene is used mainly in farms to treat crops and can cause nausea, vomiting and irritation of the skin, eyes and throat.

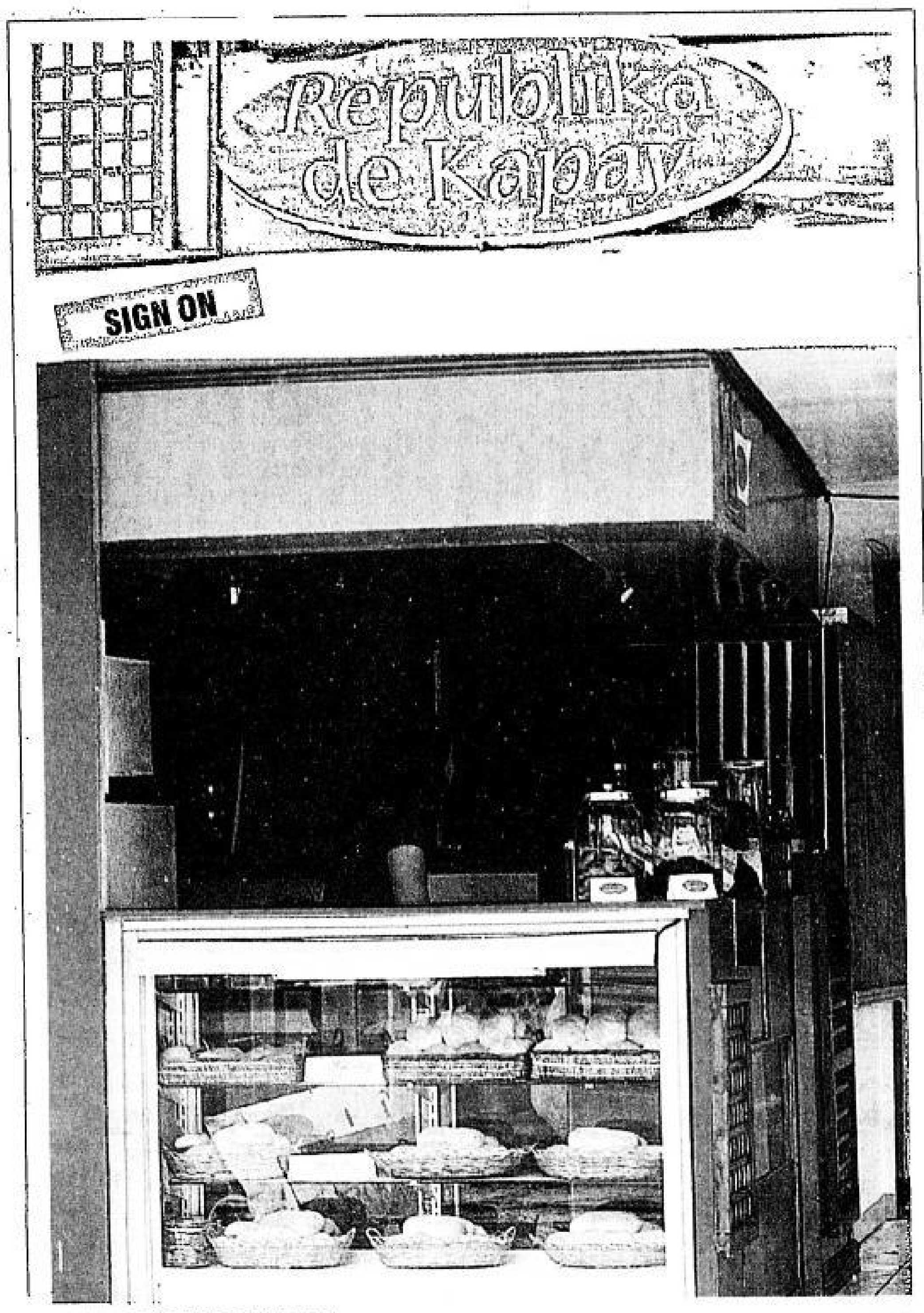
According to Greenpeace, the chemicals could have come from industrial plants. "In short, in many of the cases in which contaminants have been found in treated tap or bottled water, the river systems from which the raw water is drawn for these supplies do not appear to be the source of these contaminants," Baconguis said.

The group collected samples in areas where water is extracted for use by water utilities, and from surface water systems, piped networks and groundwater. It admitted, however, that its study was not conclusive.

Manila Water Co., which services the eastern section of the metropolis, said that it would look into the Greenpeace report.

"We want to find out where it was tested," Jeric Sevilla, corporate affairs head, said in an interview.

Maynilad Water Services, which supplies water to the western zone of Metro Manila, could not be reached for comment.



BEST-SELLING COMBO JOAN BONDOC

Puzzled by the meaning of this signage? Patrons said homegrown *kape* (coffee) and freshly baked *tinapay* (bread) are the best sellers in this coffee shop on Matalino Street in UP Village, Quezon City.

Alternative sites available for Metro waste, says MMDA

By DJ Yap and Kristine L. Alave

METRO MANILA WILL NOT EXPERIENCE a garbage crisis despite the closure of the 14-hectare landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday.

"It will not come to that. As long as we have alternative sites for dumping waste, there will be no garbage crisis," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said.

He assured residents in the metropolis that the MMDA was on top of the situation, and that garbage collection would continue for the time being.

If worse comes to worst, "there will be probably a delay in collection for a day or two. There may be some discomfort, but we're confident that it will not be a major one," Nacianceno said.

The 14-hectare landfill accommodates garbage produced by Metro Manila's 16 cities and lone municipality. According to MMDA data, the metropolis produces about 8,000 cubic meters of garbage daily.

"We're using several dumps, so if they really bar us in Rodriguez, we can always divert to the other sites," he added.

"But according to reports from our men, the dump trucks are not being turned away in Rodriguez, so we're staying put and watching the developments," the MMDA official added.

Garbage trucks

Garbage trucks were still being allowed to dump waste yesterday in the town—not the old landfill—but the newer adjacent 19-hectare facility, Nacianceno said.

He added that as far as he knew, the town had allowed the use of the adjoining facility since last week after engineering and environmental consultants found that the 14-ha landfill was already "saturated and used up" and needed to be shut down.

Asked if the new facility had the requisite environmental and municipal permits, Nacianceno said: "We leave it to (the local government). It would be improper for the MMDA to preempt them or interfere, since it's their operation."

If problems arise from the current arrangement, he said the MMDA would look into alternative dumping grounds, such as the sanitary landfills in Obando, Bulacan or San Fernando, Pampanga.

On Sunday, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III announced the closure of the 14-hectare landfill, saying that further dumping of garbage in the area could trigger accidents and could pose a risk to lives and property in the vicinity.

New landfills

Ynares, meanwhile, said yesterday that Metro officials should find new landfills for their garbage as the new dump is for Rizal province's exclusive use.

He told the INQUIRER over the phone that the provincial board had not allowed Metro Manila local governments to use the facility.

However, if they cannot find a site to accommodate the metropolis' waste, the MMDA can ask the provincial board to open the new landfill to Metro trash, Ynares said.

He also dismissed accusations by Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo that the newer dump lacked environment and municipal permits.

While Ynares admitted that the new landfill has no Environmental Compliance Certificate, it does not prohibit the landfill from operating. The ECC, he pointed out, is not a permit, but a "planning tool."

He said the Rodriguez landfill was ordered shut by the province on Sept. 17, via a resolution.

The order was supposed to take effect on Oct. 2, but was not implemented immediately as the other parties like the MMDA and the Rodriguez town were not notified, the governor explained.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, meanwhile, took the MMDA leadership to task for what he described as the "looming garbage crisis that threatens to bury Metro Manila in tons of uncollected garbage."

He said the recent closure of the landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal, might adversely affect public health and the investment climate in Metro Manila, as local governments grapple with the problem of finding an appropriate site for the waste.

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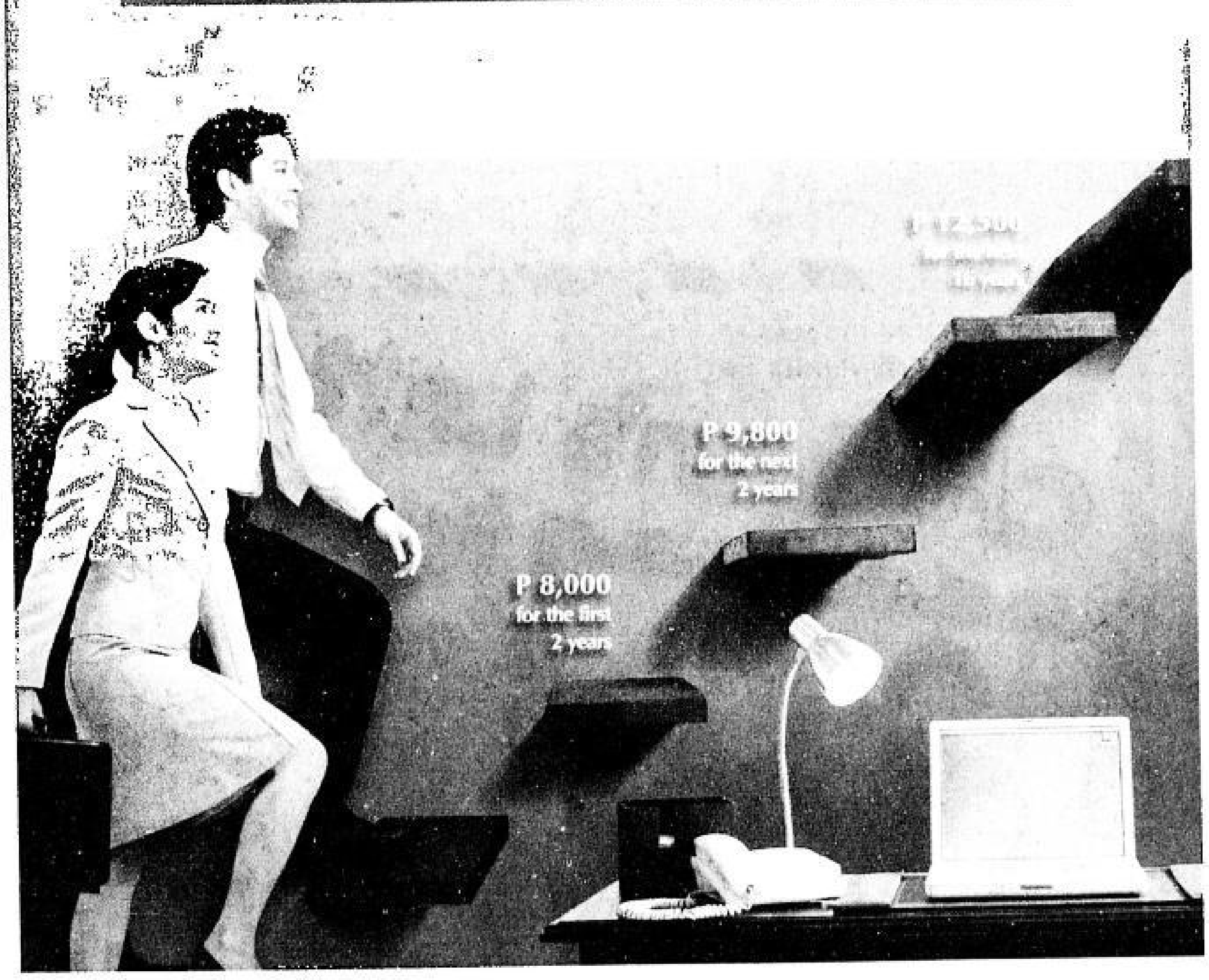

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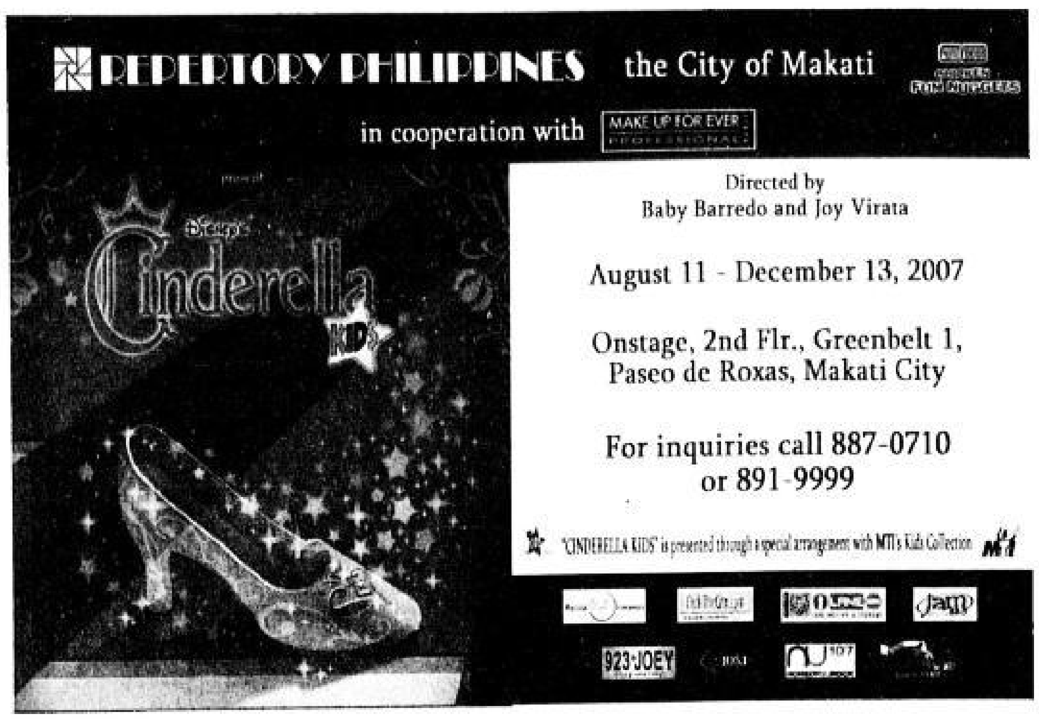
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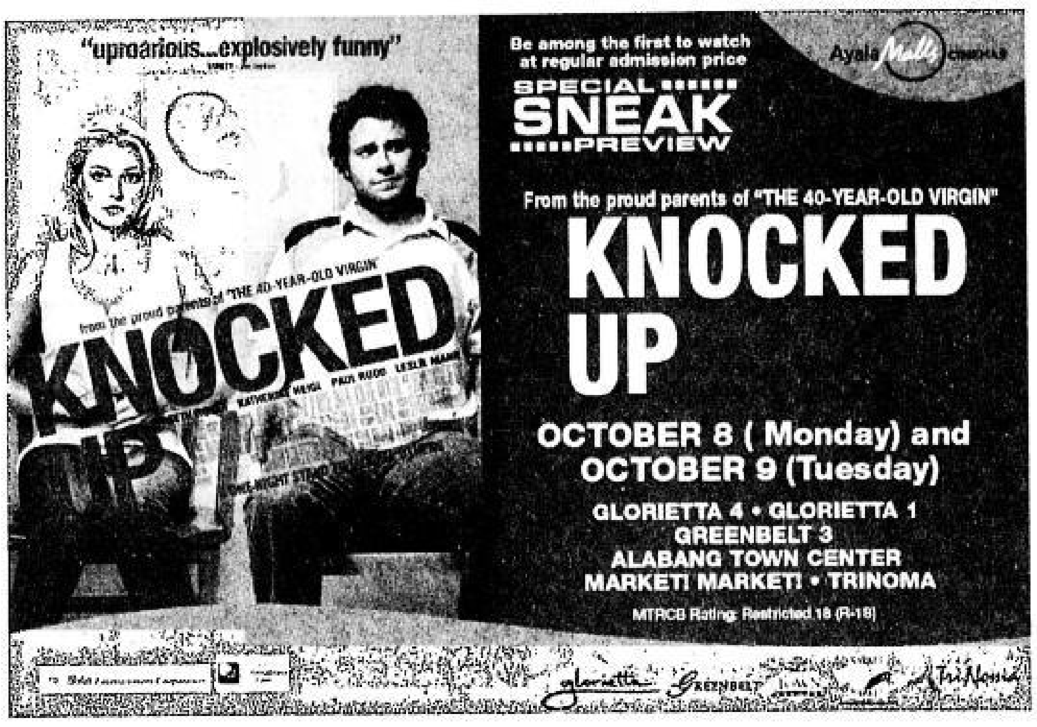
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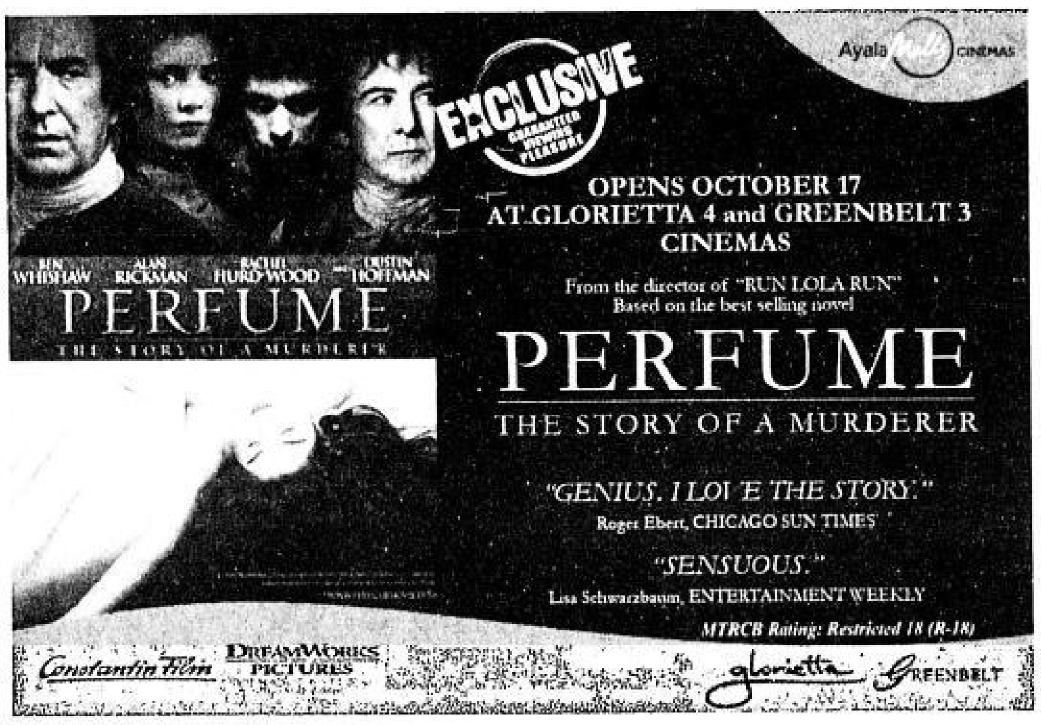
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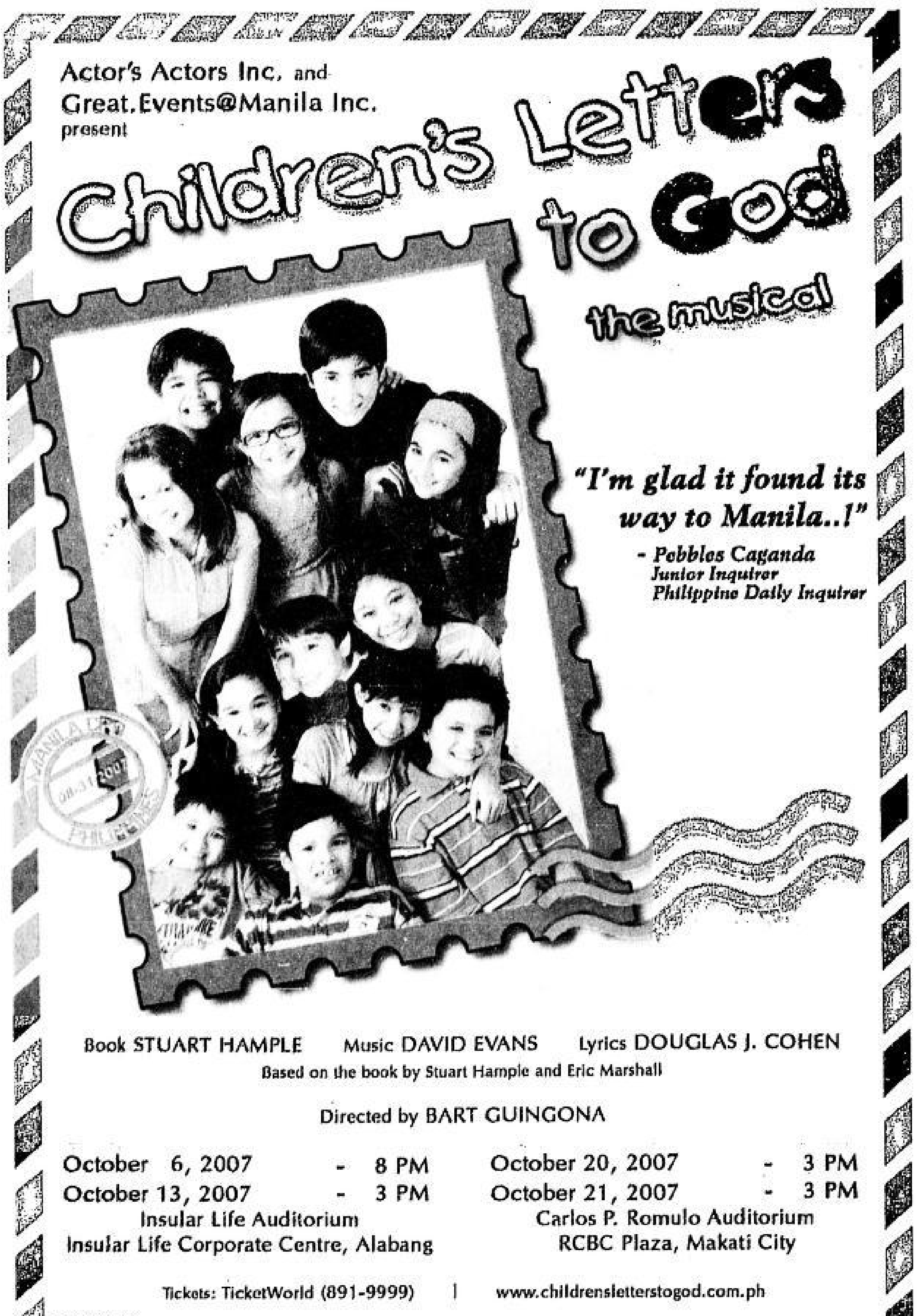
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Bullet-riddled van found in Sta. Cruz street

By Allison W. Lopez

RESIDENTS OF STA. CRUZ, MANILA yesterday called up the police after seeing a van in the area which had bullet holes and blood stains on its seats.

There was nobody inside the blue Nissan Vanette with license plate WKK 955 which was found parked at the corner of Quiricada and Almeda Streets.

Police said no one saw who left the vehicle in the area.

They added that the van could have been used to carry out a criminal act.

Scene of the Crime Operatives of the Manila Police District were later called in to examine the vehicle.

A POLICEMAN examines an abandoned van on Quiricada Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Residents called up the police when they saw the vehicle had bullet marks and bloodstained seats.
REM ZAMORA

Who were really involved in the NBN deal?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE INQUIRY INTO THE STINKING National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal seems to have hit a dead end with the principal witness, former Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri, refusing to testify further on what he knows about the project.

It seems his boss, President Macapagal-Arroyo, has finally succeeded in having him clam up on the NBN deal.

But the Senate blue ribbon committee should not lose heart over Neri having cold feet, because he has told everything he knows to Philippine Star columnist Jarius Bondoc.

The committee can have Bondoc testify on what Neri told him about the scandal.

Bondoc, a very responsible journalist, has kept notes on his interviews with Neri.

I understand Bondoc has also filed an affidavit about his conversations with the former chair of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

The Senate can ask Bondoc for his notes and affidavit.

In his Oct. 1, 2007 column, Bondoc quoted Neri as telling him that the culprits in the NBN scandal were "ZTE Corp., (businessman and presidential crony Ricky) Razon, (resigned Comelec Chair Benjamin) Abalos and one more …"

The "one more" was allegedly the President herself.

Bondoc wrote that "when I asked why his (Neri's) Neda approved the ZTE proposal when he knew all along it was stinky," Neri was supposed to have told him:

"GMA was pushing it, and it's our job to process."

You still want to know who else, apart from Abalos, were allegedly involved in the scandal? Go over Bondoc's Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 columns. It's all there.

* * *

Even after getting elected to the Senate, supposedly a place of respected and sedate individuals, Antonio Trillanes IV continues to be a juvenile, hotheaded braggart.

When the military higher-ups didn't allow him to hold his committee hearing inside his jail at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Trillanes allegedly went wild.

He reportedly cursed the jailguards and challenged them to a fight, particularly venting his ire on a Marine captain who was on duty at the time.

"Gusto mong magsumbong kay Commandant? *Sige magsumbong ka!* (If you want to report me to the Commandant, go ahead!)" Trillanes was reported to have told the captain.

The jailed VIP was referring to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Marine commandant, who has reportedly been accommodating to Trillanes in deference to his position as senator.

That was not the first time Trillanes was reported to be in a fighting mood. When he was in the jail of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces in Camp Aguinaldo, he would allegedly berate guards who were following orders not to allow visitors at certain hours.

If this young upstart acts the way he does in jail, imagine how he will conduct himself when he's out.

Nanny of missing Pasig girl charged with kidnapping

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION yesterday filed charges against Marites Ontog, the nanny of Geraldine Palma, the 7-year-old girl believed to had been kidnapped, raped and killed by her captors.

Ontog, 36, along with John and Jane Does, was charged with violation of Article 267 (qualified kidnapping) of the Revised Penal Code, in relation to Republic Act 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) and RA 7659 (heinous crime).

According to Arnel Dalumpines, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, the cases stemmed from the complaint filed at the NBI by the victim's father, Gerald, who claimed that Ontog was the last person seen with his daughter before she went missing.

In his sworn statement to the NBI, Palma said that at around 11 a.m. on Aug. 11, Ontog took Geraldine to a tutorial school near their subdivision, Riverside Village, in Barangay Sta. Lucia, Pasig City. The two later failed to come home.

Palma claimed that after several hours, he received a phone call from an unidentified man demanding a P10 million ransom for his daughter's release.

Thinking that the man was joking, Palma said he ignored the call. He then received another call from an unidentified man at around 7 p.m. When he insisted on talking to Ontog, the caller said they had already killed her.

On Aug. 13, Palma said they received another call from the kidnappers who asked for P245,000. He said it was agreed that the payoff would take place at the back of FTI Lower Bicutan at around 10 p.m.

Palma, however, said that no one showed up in the area even though he waited until 3 a.m. the next day.

On Aug. 17, the body of a girl stuffed inside a suitcase was found in Tondo, Manila.

The body was believed to be that of Geraldine after Palma and his wife, Felma, came forward and identified her as their daughter.

It was buried and later exhumed after the police claimed that the body could be that of another girl who was also reported missing.

Forensic experts are now conducting a DNA test to determine the girl's identity.

Arrest warrant out vs comedian Teri Onor

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT (MTC) IN QUEZON City has issued an arrest warrant against Bataan province Vice Mayor Dexter Dominguez, also known as Teri Onor, after allegedly failing to show up in three different hearings regarding two counts of estafa filed against him by a businesswoman.

Maria Luisa Mariano, 46, a resident of Project 3 in Quezon City, had earlier charged Dominguez, a comedian and current vice mayor of Abucay, Bataan, of violating Batas Pambansa Blg. 22 or the bouncing checks law.

The arrest warrant was issued on Sept. 24 by acting presiding judge Catherine Manodon of the MTC Branch 43 who ordered a bail of P20,000 for the release of the accused.

Mariano accused Dominguez of allegedly borrowing from her a total of P1.68 million on different dates in March 2006.

Mariano, who sells health products, said she met Dominguez through a common friend. After a couple of weeks, she said Dominguez started borrowing money from her reportedly to finance a perfume business he was about to launch.

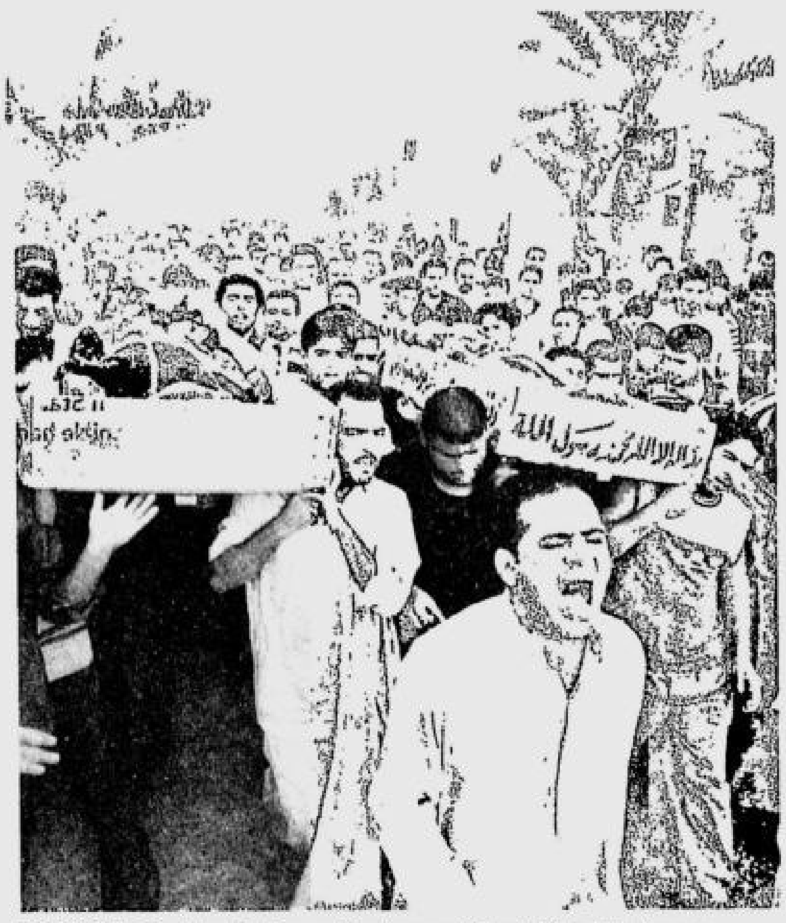
Dominguez apparently showed her the income he was getting from his shows in several bars and restaurant in the Metro where he performs, which enticed her to lend him the amount. Dominguez gave her 15 checks that bounced, Mariano added.

METROBRIEFS

Permanent posts eyed

SOME posts at the city government-run Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa will soon be made permanent, according to Mayor Aldrin San Pedro. He added that the City Council drafted a resolution about six months ago introducing 20 to 30 "plantilla" or permanent positions at the university. "I'm not sure if it has been approved already but the proposal would cover both top PLMun officials and deserving faculty," San Pedro said. The PLMun is staffed by casual and part-time employees, from the university president down to the lowest ranked employee. "Before, it was very easy to take out any employee because they were on a casual or part-time status. But if we introduce permanent positions, there won't have to be mass revamps or removals with every change of administration," San Pedro said. He added that permanent positions would be offered to mostly teaching personnel, while the non-teaching and utility staff would be hired on a casual or part-time basis.

Julie M. Aurelio



MOURNERS attend a funeral for two residents killed during an overnight raid by US and Iraqi military forces in Baghdad's Sadr City on Oct. 8. REUTERS

Iraq says Blackwater deliberately killed 17

BAGHDAD—IRAQ SAID ON SUNDAY SECURITY GUARDS FROM the US firm Blackwater "deliberately killed" 17 Iraqis in last month's shooting incident in Baghdad and that it would take legal steps against them.

Government spokesperson Ali al-Dabbagh said an investigation set up by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki found no evidence that the US security firm had come under fire during the incident.

"What they committed is considered a crime of deliberate killing and they must be held accountable according to the law," Dabbagh said, adding the company itself could face legal action.

Dabbagh's toll from the shooting was higher than the 11 deaths previously reported by Iraqi officials and the tone of his statement suggested Iraqi anger over the Sept. 16 still burns strongly.

Blackwater, which employs 1,000 people in Iraq to protect US State Department officials, has said its guards reacted lawfully to an attack on one of its convoys.

Blackwater's founder, Erik Prince, said in remarks prepared for a Congressional hearing last week that his men came under small-arms fire, including from people wearing police uniforms, and "returned fire at threatening targets."

Dabbagh said there was "no evidence that the Blackwater convoy came under any direct or indirect fire, or that it was even hit by stones."

His statement was released on the same day a separate committee made up of US and Iraqi officials met for the first time to review the operations of foreign security firms in Iraq.

A US embassy statement said the joint commission, headed by Iraq's defense minister and a senior US diplomat, will put forward proposals to ensure that security firms guarding US officials "do not endanger public safety."

It did not say when the committee would complete its work.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has ordered tighter controls on Blackwater including putting cameras on its convoys. The State Department also plans to send diplomatic security agents to accompany each convoy protected by Blackwater guards.

Iraq says there are more than 180 mainly US and European security companies in Iraq, with estimates of the number of private contractors ranging from 25,000 to 48,000.

Many Iraqis resent their presence, seeing them as private armies which have shot and killed civilians with impunity. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Musharraf girds for court battle

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf girded Sunday for a Supreme Court battle over whether he can claim victory in a presidential vote, a confrontation which could further destabilize the country. The key US ally, at the center of international efforts to combat Islamic extremism, swept to an overwhelming majority in Saturday's controversial election after it was boycotted by almost the entire opposition. The country's top court is however weighing up the legality of the poll and whether Musharraf was allowed to stand while keeping his role as army chief, ruling on Friday that the result cannot be confirmed until it decides. A judgement against the general, who grabbed power in a bloodless coup in 1999, could push Musharraf over the brink after months of political turmoil and make him declare martial law. *AFP*

Gunman kills 6 in US Midwest

CRANDON, Wisconsin—A young deputy sheriff shot dead his ex-sweetheart, two childhood friends and three other youths at a party in this small US Midwestern town before being shot dead by police. Friends of Tyler Peterson, 20, said he seemed normal when he was out with them on Saturday night, but by Sunday afternoon he had been killed by a police sniper after apparently murdering six people. Sometime before 3 a.m. on Saturday, Peterson burst into his ex-girlfriend's house and opened fire, killing her and five others, authorities said, including two of his best childhood friends and a girl of just 14. *AFP*

Darfur town burned down

KHARTOUM—A Darfur town has been burned to the ground and its residents forced to flee, days after 10 African Union troops were killed there in an attack, a joint United Nations/African Union mission said on Sunday. The report confirmed rebel statements to Reuters on Friday that the remote southeastern settlement of Haskanita had been all but destroyed. But it did not repeat accusations from insurgents that the Sudanese army was behind the destruction. More than 7,000 residents of Haskanita fled into the bush or to other towns after it was torched, a spokesperson for the UN said, adding that a huge aid operation would be needed to bring them food, shelter and water. The only buildings left standing were a mosque and a school. *Reuters*

Vandals punch hole in Monet

PARIS—Intruders broke into the Musee d'Orsay early Sunday and damaged a work by the Impressionist painter Claude Monet, the latest in a series of acts of vandalism and thefts at cultural sites in France. Christine Albanel, the minister of culture, said the intruders left a tear close to four inches long in the painting, "Le Pont d'Argenteuil," or "The Argenteuil Bridge," from 1874. The break-in was "an attack against our memory and our heritage," Albanel told French radio France Info. She said the intruders, believed to be four men and a woman, appeared drunk and "left various bits of filth" before "one of them stuck a fist into the magnificent masterpiece by Monet." The alarms sounded and museum personnel arrived quickly, but the intruders were able to flee, Albanel said. The painting can be restored, she said. *NYT*

Hong Kong choking in smog

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's air pollution reached dangerous levels on Monday, reigniting concerns about public health and fears that the city could lose out on crucial foreign investment due to the thick smog. Across the southern Chinese territory, the Air Pollution Index on Monday passed the critical 100 mark, the point at which the Environmental Protection Department warns anyone with respiratory or heart problems to stay home. At the weekend, the index reached 144. The high on Monday was 113. The poor air quality—which left the city's Victoria Harbour shrouded in haze—was recorded even though many factories in the neighboring Pearl River Delta in mainland China have been closed for a week-long holiday. *AFP*

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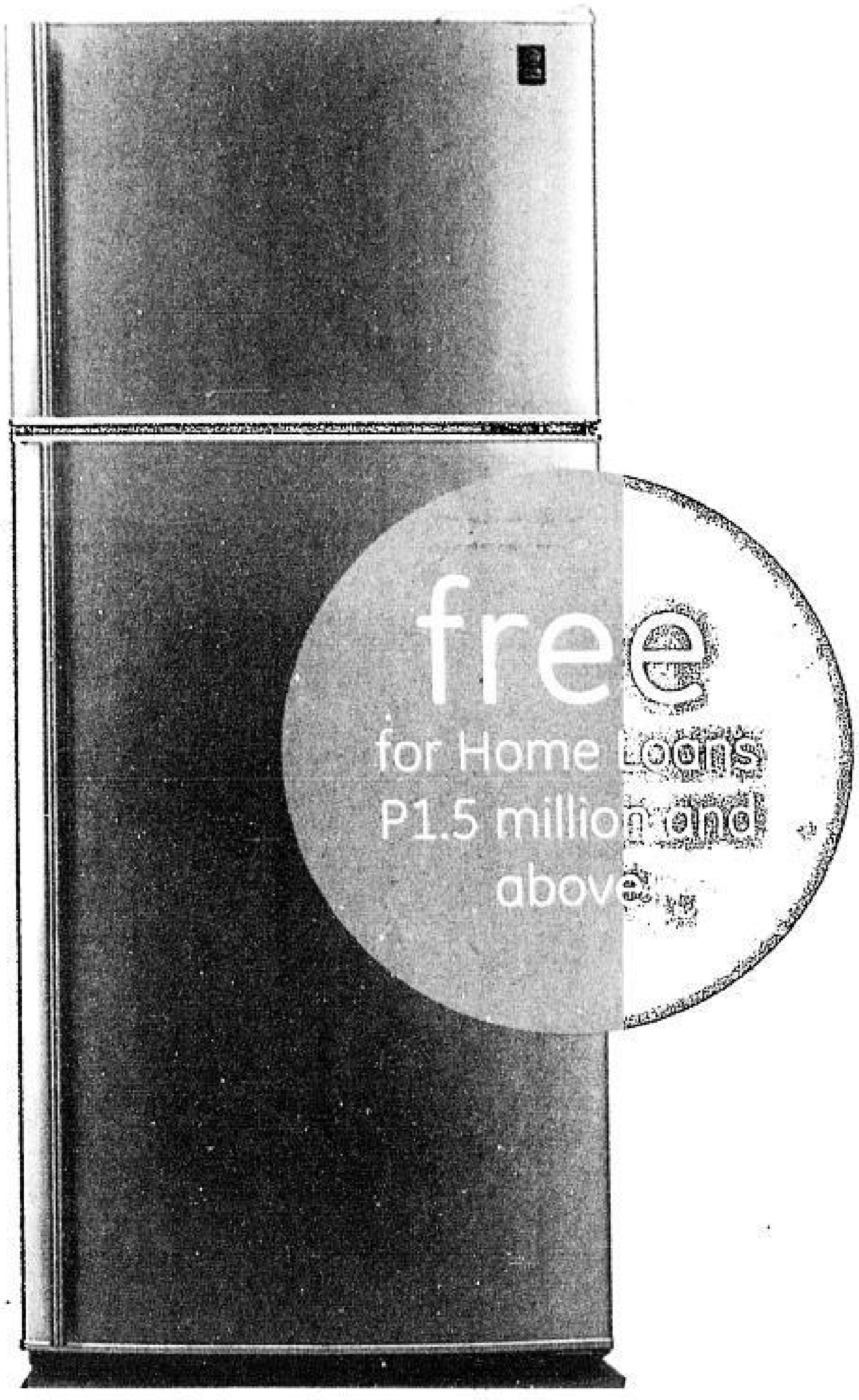
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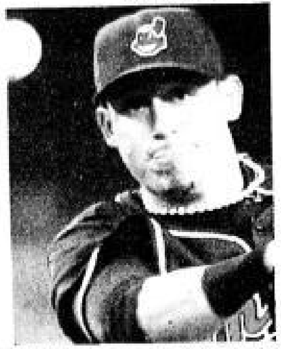
▨ **Red Sox** sweep rivals; Yankees stay alive/A23



Pacquiao: Marquez fight still on

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACquiao, who on Saturday earned his spurs as a finesse fighter, declared after a thanksgiving Mass here yesterday he was not yet moving up to the 135-ound lightweight class.

Pacquiao likewise clarified that his proposed duel with WBC 130-lb. champion Juan Manuel Marquez was still on.

"No, *hindi*," Pacquiao told team insider Hermie Rivera, who tried to confirm reports emanating from Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino that the Filipino boxing star planned to turn full lightweight after his ordeal with the weighing scales before his second conquest of Marco Antonio Barrera Saturday night here.

Even Pacquiao's lovely wife, Jinkee, who must have favored the move to go one division up, said there was nothing definife about the plan.

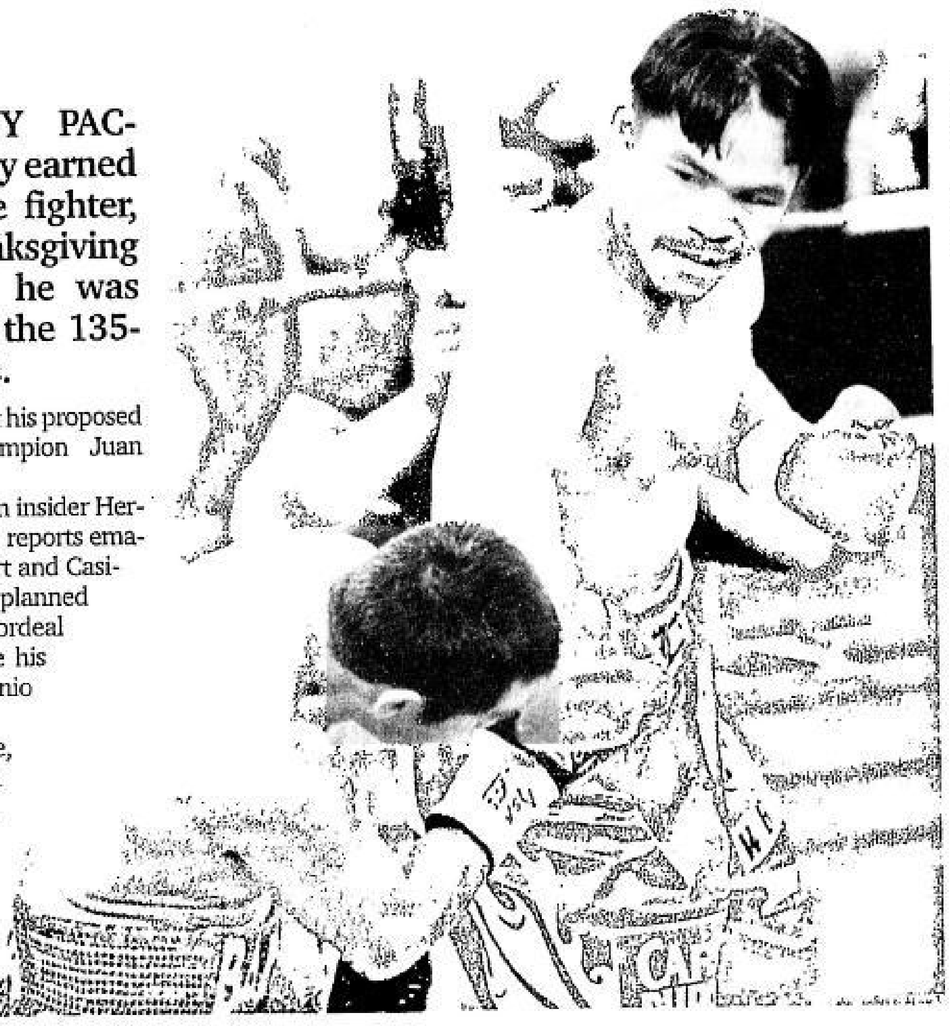
"*Puwede kong labanan si Marquez, maski* (I can fight Marquez even at) 130 or 135 pounds," Pacquiao said.

Team Pacquiao headed from here to Los Angeles in a convoy of cars yesterday afternoon.

He will meet with Top Rank big boss Bob Arum before flying for home Wednesday. He's expected in Manila Friday morning.

A host of other possibilities, including a bout against WBA super featherweight champion Edwin Valero in Macau, arose yesterday.

It was also suggested Pacquiao could next clash with the winner of the world lightweight championship between Juan and Julio Diaz.



MANNY Pacquiao barely misses with a right straight against Mexican legend Marco Antonio Barrera Saturday. The Filipino boxing celebrity scored an easy points victory.
KEATS LONDON, CORRESPONDENT

Meanwhile, what obviously got overlooked by blood-thirsty fight fans at Mandalay was the elevation of Pacquiao as a finesse fighter based on his smooth control against Barrera, who mainly tried to move away and survive.

The fight did not develop into a full-scale battle due to the refusal of Barrera to slug it out with Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, after landing big shots which he failed to sustain in rounds four and five, went all out in the 11th round and caught his Mexican foe with a lethal combination to the head.

Visibly shaken, Barrera let off a hefty right cross off a clinch, hitting Pacquiao flush on the face. The fight was halted as referee Tony Weeks slapped a point deduction.

The fight lasted the full 12-round route.

Pacquiao celebrated his second conquest of Barrera at the Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

If they asked him, trainer Freddie Roach would have declared the big celebration was for the elevation of Pacquiao into a finesee fighter, as evidenced by the smooth control displayed against the backpedalling Barrera.

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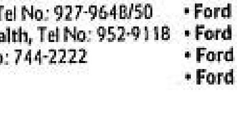

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47 SEAG stars back in RP fold for Thailand Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ONLY 47 FROM THE VICTORIOUS group that captured a leading total of 112 gold medals for the Philippines in 2005 will be back for this year's Southeast Asian Games campaign in Thailand this December.

Swimmer Miguel Molina, diver Shiela Mae Perez, billiards' Ronnie Alcano and Rubilen Amit and gymnast Roel Ramirez, all multievent winners, lead the list of returning champions from the list of 591 athletes recommended by the SEAG Task Force for approval by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Molina, already a qualifier to the Beijing Olympics next year along with teammates Ryan Arebejo and JB Walsh as well as taekwondo's Tshomlee Go, will try to match his three golden feats two years ago as the most successful RP campaigner for the home team, which won the SEAG overall championship for the first time.

Perez also produced three golds, two of them in the individual springboard, while Alcano, Amit and Ramirez posted two victories each.

Athletics will be represented by 40 athletes led by Marestella Torres while bowling will have defending champions Biboy Rivera, Markwin Tee and Liza Clutario.

Olympics aspirant and Doha Asian Games champ Joan Tipon and Violito Payla will spearhead the 17-member boxing team, golf will be led by Jayvie Agojo and Dottie Ardina, shooting will lean on Jethro Dionisio and Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and tennis will again rely on Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino.

Wushu, the winningest sport in 2005 with 11 golds, will parade champions Willy Wang, Janice Hung and Mariane Mariano.

The men's basketball team will be headed by UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz, NCAA stalwarts Pong Escobal and former pro Alex Crisano, while fencing will have 2005 gold medalists Ramil Endriano, Emerson Segui and Joanna Franquinelli.

A total of 448 athletes donned the RP colors during the 2003 Vietnam SEAG.

"We are sending the most potent team pound for pound," said Task Force member and POC deputy secretary general Mark Joseph.

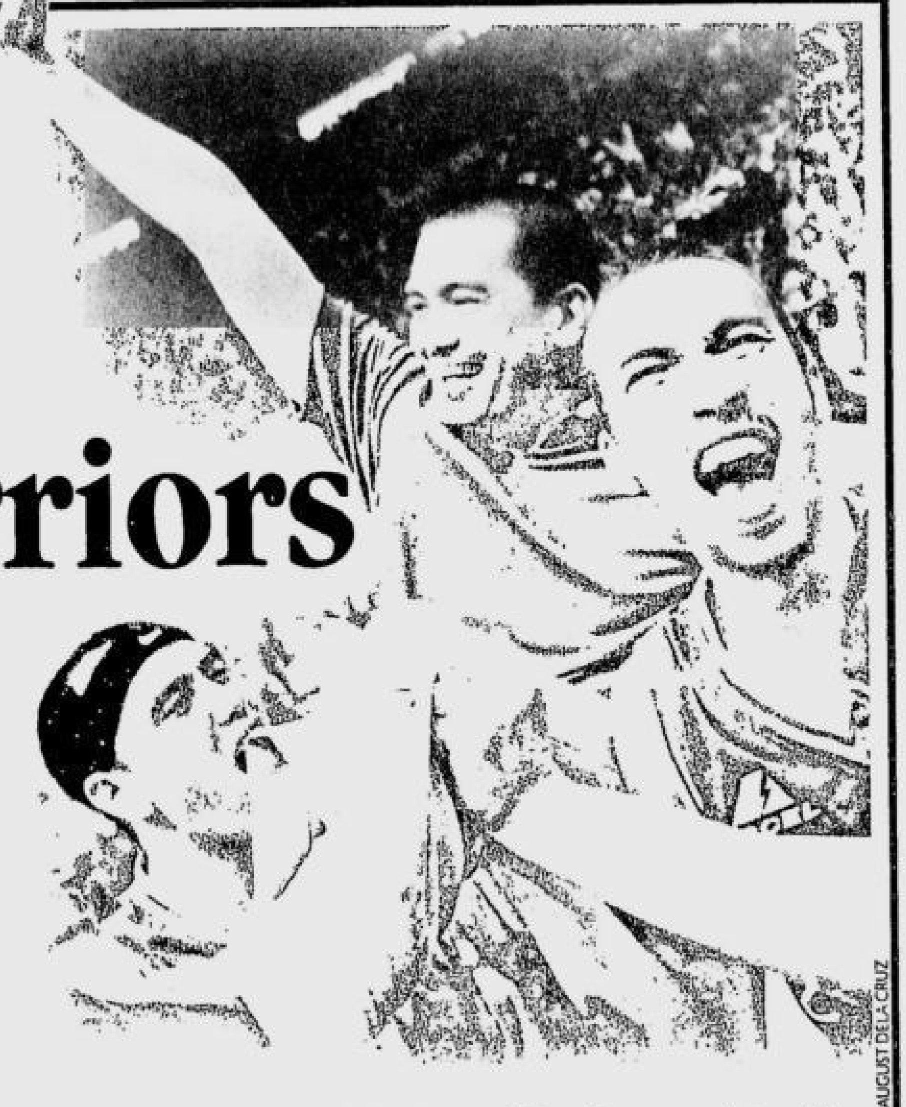
Forty-five events will be contested in the SEA Games, slated Dec. 6-15, with the Philippines seeing action in 43 sports.

PSC commissioner Richie Garcia, also co-chair of the Task Force, said 56 athletes will shoulder their transportation and accommodation expenses as they failed to meet requirements set by the Task Force.

These are the athletes from rugby, futsal, polo and the women's basketball team.

"The list can be changed or even be lessened but definitely there won't be any addition," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

Vindication for Archers, pain for Warriors



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

JV CASIO (left) and Rico Maierhofer give coach Franz Pumaren a victory ride.

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP BASKETBALL SEASON BROUGHT VINDICATION FOR FRANZ Pumaren's La Salle and heartaches for younger brother Dindo's University of the East.

Rebounding from a scandal with a championship, the Archers proved yet again that they're tough when it really mattered.

"Experience was glaringly in our favor; my players are veterans of many wars," Franz beamed after his Archers completed an upset sweep of the top-ranked Warriors to capture their seventh crown Sunday at the Big Dome.

The Warriors almost had it all—overwhelming talent, sound program and a perfect 14-0 record in the eliminations. But the Warriors couldn't finish what they started.

"We're disappointed of course," said Dindo. "But this is just another learning experience for us. The Finals is different—the atmosphere, the pressure. We had a 20-day break (after clinching an outright Finals spot) and I think it affected our fluidity. For La Salle, Ateneo pushed it to be at its best (during the semifinals)."

And the Archers did gain momentum at the right time after an unimpressive start that included a blowout loss to the Warriors and back-to-back setbacks to the Eagles.

"It was a roller-coaster season for us," said Franz of his Archers, who rose from a one-year suspension resulting from a harrowing eligibility scandal.

JV Casio, Cholo Villanueva and TY Tang—who all played in the Archers' previous title campaigns—primarily keyed the Archers' successful run.

"It was the first time for the UE Warriors and they looked so tight; we capitalized on that," said Franz.

For Dindo, the Finals only showed his Warriors need more polishing.

"We're putting things in perspective," he said. "We were frustrated but when we went out (of the coliseum), so many people still cheered for us. We realized that reaching the Finals is still something we should be thankful for, it's an improvement from last year. We had the talent, but in terms of experience, we're just not there yet."

And like any older brother, Franz had comforting words for Dindo.

"I think they will mature quickly and they can use this series as an experience for them next year."

Magnolia, Air21 raise PBA curtains Sunday

By Musong R. Castillo

GAME SUNDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:30 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
6:30 p.m.—Air21 vs Magnolia

THE 33RD SEASON OF THE PBA UNFURLS SUNDAY with new rules, bright fresh names seeing action and the league's oldest franchise seeing action under a new name to open Philippine Cup hostilities at the Araneta Coliseum.

Magnolia, the new name of San Miguel Beer, clashes with Air21 in the only game scheduled at 6:30 p.m. following techno-inspired opening rites at 4:30 as Asia's first play-for-pay league seeks another banner year just months after a failed international bid.

The team with the most PBA titles will now be known as the Beverage Masters.

Rejoining them are Danny Seigle and Dondon Hontiveros, who played for the RP five along with other PBA standouts in several events overseas that ended with a ninth-place finish in the Fiba Asia championship in Japan.

A lavish press luncheon was held at the Westin Philippine Plaza yesterday where officials announced that the league expects to reach new highs this year.

There will be a shorter three-point arc starting this season, a new shape for the shaded lane and a relaxed application of the hand-check rule to speed up action.

"All of the innovations are geared toward giving the fans what they want, and that is thrilling action," league chair Tony Chua said yesterday.

Focus will also be on the much-ballyhooed rookies who were picked in the draft.

Welcoat snagged Fil-Am Joe Devance as No. 1 pick and the 6-foot-7 center will be depended upon to turn things around for the sophomore franchise that won only seven games in both tournaments last season.

The Beverage Masters added 6-foot-9 Samigue Eman to their mix.

Sta. Lucia could achieve what it is equipped to do after signing guard Ryan Reyes to lead an under-achieving core that has one of the league's highest payrolls.

IS Manila, Nomads booters dominate 1st Mosman Cup

AN EARLY-AFTERNOON DOWNPOUR failed to dampen the competitive spirit of nearly 800 children who vied for five team titles in the first-ever Mosman Cup last Saturday at the muddy Nomad Sports Club in Parañaque.

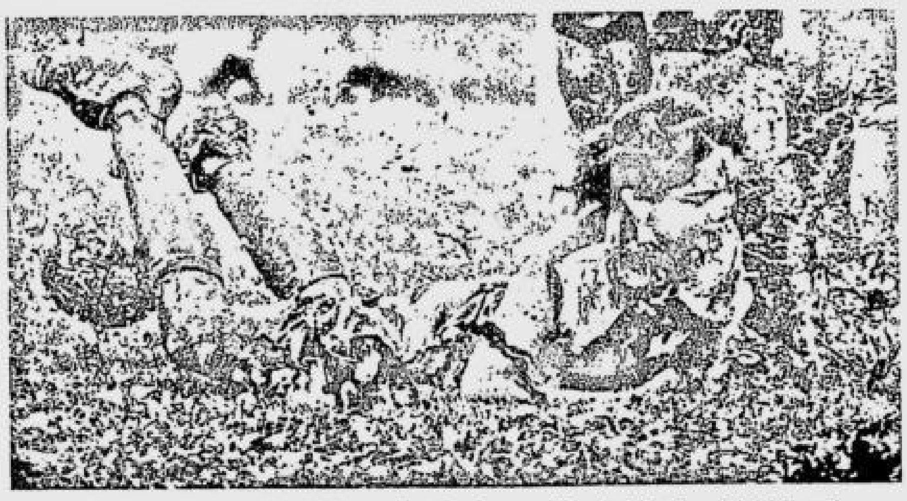
Two football clubs and three schools won titles, with International School of Manila beating Holistic Education Center in a shoot-out after regulation play ended in a deadlock for the 12-and-under title in the boys' division.

The Nomads Junior FC edged Union FC, 1-0, for the boys' 10-and-under title.

In girls' play, Miriam College beat Saint Pedro Poveda for the 12-under crown while Holistic EC won the 10-under title over Saint Pedro Poveda.

The mixed 8-and-under title was won by Union FC, 2-0, over Nomads JFC.

Best players: International School's Adilet Segizerov (12-under), Nomads' Sean Christianson (10-under), Miriam's Nowa Amonclo (girls' 12-under), Holistic's Ice Cedro (girls' 10-under), and Union's Clarence Limchiko (mixed 8-under).



MIRIAM College's Beatrice Velasco slips in the muddy pitch in the girls' 12-and-under finals of the Mosman Cup national six-a-side football tournament. RODEL ROTONI

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Alcano, Reyes at forefront of RP World Pool campaign

DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION RONATO ALcano and Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes head 10 other Filipino stars seeing action in the main draw of the 2007 World Pool Championships slated Nov. 3 to 11 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Joining Alcano, the reigning World Pool Association 9-ball and 8-ball titlist, and Reyes, the 1999 WPC (Cardiff) champion, are 2004 WPC (Taiwan) champion Alex Pagulayan, 2002 WPC (Cardiff) runner-up Francisco Bustamante, 2007 BCA Enjoypool.com winner Dennis Orcollo, national titleholder Lee Van Corteza, Marlon Manalo, Antonio Lining, Ramil Gallego, Rodolfo Luat, Jeffrey de Luna and Joven Bustamante.

"There's intense pressure if you're the current WPC champion, but I'll just do my best," said Alcano in Filipino. "I'm hoping that a Filipino will again win the crown."

The 34-year-old Alcano beat Germany's Ralf Souquet in the WPC Manila finals last year.

Luke Riches, media director of the event's international organizer Matchroom Sport, said the 12 Filipinos will automatically enter the group stage of the 128-man main draw.

The Filipinos are out to secure a record fourth world championship, according to Yen Makabenta, president of Raya Sports, the local promoter and organizer of the tournament.

"With this roster of players, we believe we have a good chance of repeating this year," said Makabenta, also chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP).

The United States has the most number of qualified players for the WPC with 15. It is followed by the Philippines with 12 and Chinese Taipei with eight.

SPORTSWATCH

Top Rank signs up two top fighters from Mindanao

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

LAS VEGAS—BOB ARUM'S TOP RANK has added two bright prospects from Mindanao to its stable, signing them up to three-year promotional contracts.

The agreement stipulates that each fighter will be given four fights a year.

Undefeated featherweight Glenn Gonzales (6 wins, 1 draw, with 4 KOs) and unbeaten bantamweight Jundy Maraon (10 wins, 1 draw with 8 KOs) will now fight under the Top Rank banner after an agreement was reached between the promotions outfit's Todd duBoef, who represented Bob Arum and Manny Pacquiao, and Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino yesterday.

Piñol said the contract would be submitted to him on Wednesday, and the two boxers' visa requirements would be arranged so they could fight next month.

World poker tourney set

AN EXPECTED MINIMUM CASH PRIZE of $35,000 is at stake in the World Championship No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on Oct. 27 and 28, according to host Pacific Poker Palace (PPP).

Ben dela Cruz of PPP said buy-in for the world championship is US$500 and that satellite games for the event will be held every Friday.

The Philippine-based PPP, with the cooperation of Pagcor, is holding the world championship without a foreign partner for the first time. It held the Asian Pacific Poker Tour recently.

The firm will hold tournaments every Saturday before the world championship. A P250,000 is set on Oct. 13 with a P100,000 coming up next on Oct. 20.

93 tiffs at Big Dome today

COCKFIGHT ENTHUSIASTS CONVERGE at the Araneta Coliseum as the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby series gets under way today.

The 3-stag elimination round (93 fights), set to start at 11 a.m., is backed by B-Meg Derby Ace. Another round sizzles on Thursday.

Second-leg qualifiers from the eliminations held at Lucky Sports Complex last Oct. 4 are required to compete at the Big Dome on Oct. 16 or 18, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

RGBA finals up at 'Garden'

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF THE Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA) 5-stag derby circuit kicks off Oct. 12 and 15 at the Pasig Square Garden.

According to RGBA president Joey Sy, more than 80 participants have already signed up for the 2-stag eliminations on Friday. The 3-stag finals is on Monday.

Ramon Talavera, LJ Sumulong and Boy Torres topped the first leg last Sept. 14 while Elmer Nepomuceno ruled the second leg on Sept. 28.

Four pace Vigba Stagwars

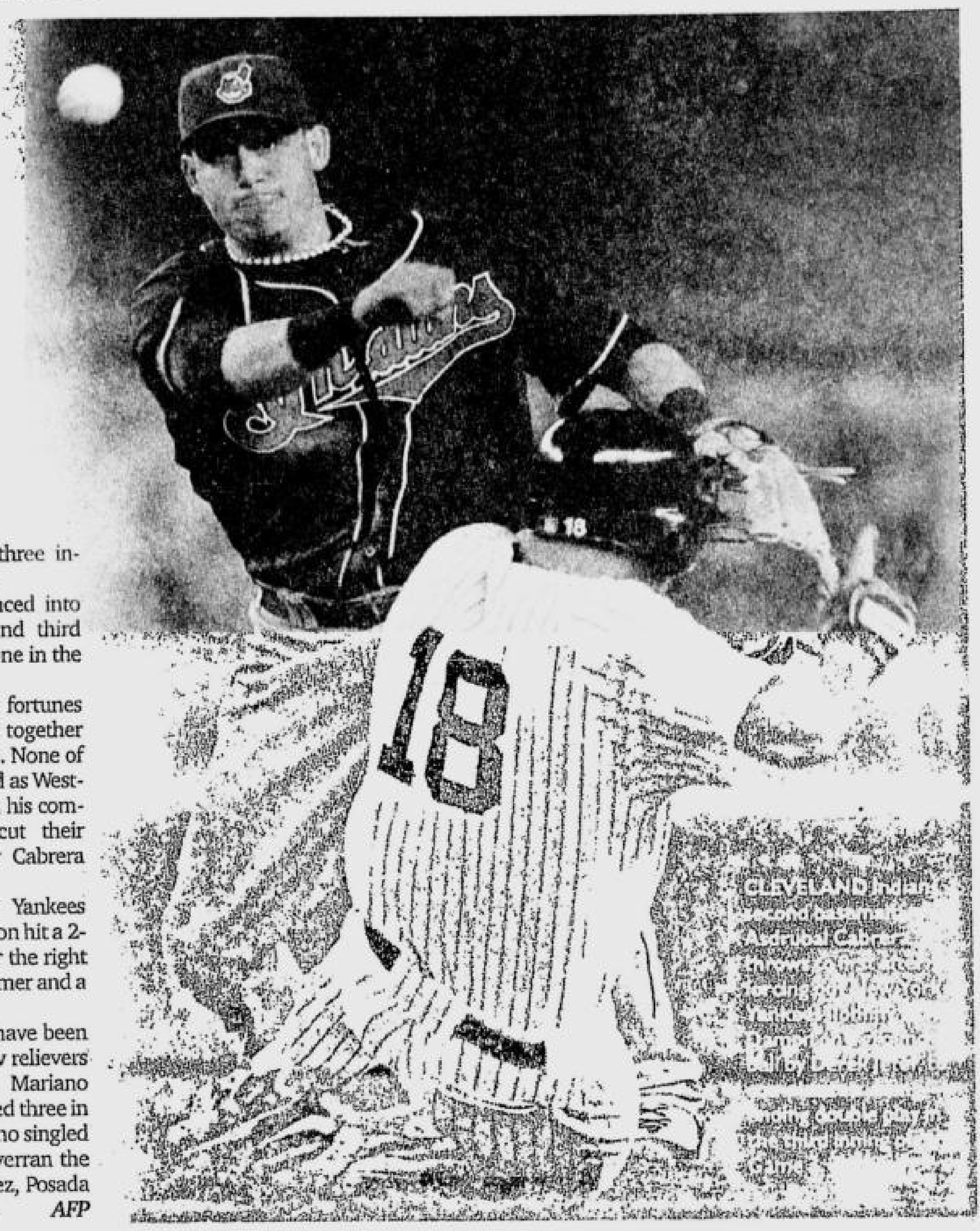
FOUR OUT OF 47 ENTRIES EMERGED unscathed with three wins in the first elimination leg of the Vizcaya Ifugao Gamefowl Breeders Association (Vigba) Stagwars at the Bayombong Sports Complex recently.

D' Colores of Francis Domingsil, Flying A-4 of Vigba president Moises Almuete, Jr., V&F Rem Gamefarm III of Randy Moreno and RS Masigasig of Arman Parungao thus took the early lead in the race for the coveted Breeder of the Year and Stagfighter of the Year awards in the derby sponsored by Thunderbird Stag Developer and Thundebird Enertone.

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Bullish Dream (6), Selectee (1), Batang Bukid/Alam Mo Na Yan (2), Deputy Orpfa/Iron Hand (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Angie Red (8), American Inggo (4), Golden Harry (7), Noble Scholar (1), Imperial Manila (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Summit Force (3), Madel Line (2), Hurry Princess (1), Pristine Water (6)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Hot Wind (7), Solo Singer (1), Bingbong (6), Master Professor (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Flavorofthemonth (4), Dixie Dash (2), Run Like D'Wind (1), Beuax Yeux (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Winner Take All (3), Mister Cool (6), Summer Rain (3), Princess Adarna (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Firehouse/Cash Mc Call (7), Sovereign Dancer (6), Astimegoesby/Smooth Strike (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Sexy Eyes (5), Sunline (8), Flying Jordan (3), Court House (2), Luck Of The Irish (4), Last Hazm (7)

Red Sox sweep rivals; Yankees keep bid alive



CLEVELAND Indians [illegible]

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—THE Boston Red Sox swept into American League Championship Series on Sunday, while the New York Yankees kept alive their hopes of joining them there.

David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez hit back-to-back homers and veteran ace Curt Schilling tossed seven scoreless innings as the Red Sox beat the Angels of Anaheim, 9-1, to complete a 3-0 victory in the best-of-five AL first-round series.

The Yankees, Boston's bitter AL East rivals, went into their game at Yankee Stadium facing elimination at the hands of the Cleveland Indians.

But the Yankees pulled through. Johnny Damon hit a three-run home run with one out in the bottom of the fifth inning and the Yankees overcame an early deficit en route to an 8-4 victory that narrowed the gap in the series to 2-1.

Rookie Phil Hughes allowed two hits in 3 2/3 innings of relief after starter Roger Clemens was forced to leave with a strained left hamstring, and New York tacked on three runs in the sixth to put the game out of reach.

"To come in the way he did, he looked like a seasoned pro," Yankees manager Joe Torre said of Hughes. "And when you finally took the ball from him, when you looked into his eye, (this) wasn't a surprise to him."

Before the Yankees even had a chance to get settled at Yankee Stadium on Sunday afternoon, rumors about Torre's job security were swirling.

A report in the Bergen Record in New Jersey had comments from owner George Steinbrenner that indicated Torre's 12-year tenure was going to end with a third straight loss in the division series.

The Yankees could yet make a first-round exit. They host game four on Monday, when they will attempt to send the series back to Jacobs Field.

For four innings it looked like Torre was managing his final game as the Yankees struggled against Jake Westbrook's sinker. They hit into three double plays through the first three innings and faced a 3-1 deficit.

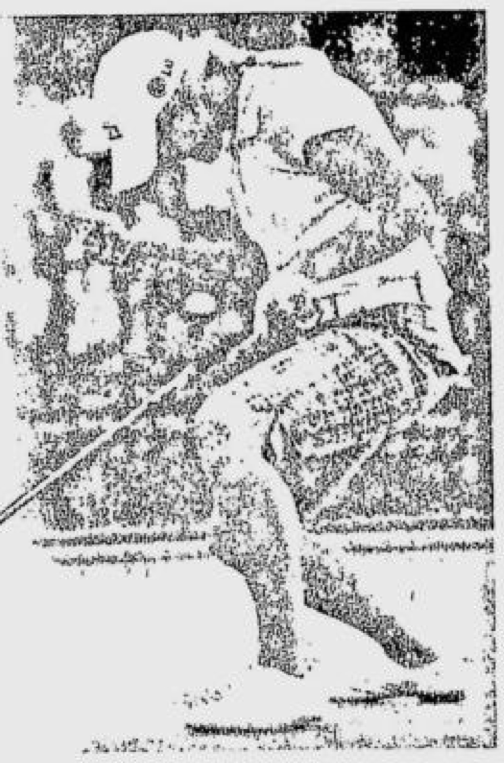
Captain Derek Jeter bounced into double plays in the first and third while Jorge Posada hit into one in the second.

In the fifth, the Yankees' fortunes began to change as they put together four consecutive one-out hits. None of those hits were on the ground as Westbrook began to struggle with his command, and the Yankees cut their deficit to one when Melky Cabrera lined a single to left-center.

Two pitches later, the Yankees grabbed the lead when Damon hit a 2-0 pitch from Westbrook over the right field fence for a three-run homer and a 5-3 advantage.

The two run lead would have been plenty for Hughes and fellow relievers Joba Chamberlain and Mariano Rivera, but the Yankees scored three in the sixth when Robinson Cano singled to center and Trot Nixon overran the ball, allowing Alex Rodriguez, Posada and Hideki Matsui to score. *AFP*

Pettersen pips Ochoa in Long Drugs playoff



SUZANN Pettersen sinks the winning putt. AP

DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA—NORWAY'S Suzann Pettersen sank a birdie putt on the second playoff hole to outlast world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa and win the Longs Drugs Challenge on Sunday.

Pettersen, who along with Ochoa is the only multiple winner on the LPGA Tour this season, posted her third win of the campaign and earned $165,000.

Both players birdies the first playoff hole, and Mexico's Ochoa missed from 20 feet on the second extra hole.

That set up Pettersen, who sank a six-footer for the win. She said she was relieved to get the round over before it was too dark to continue.

Pettersen, the overnight leader, struggled on Sunday, bogeying two of her first three holes. She had one birdie on the front nine but started her back nine with three consecutive bogeys to drop from the lead.

She rebounded with birdies at Nos. 12, 15 and 16 for a one-over-par 73 and a four-round total of 11-under 277.

It was enough to force a playoff with Ochoa, who had started the day two shots back in third place, taken the lead, and finally settled for a one-under 71 that included a bogey at No. 11 and a double-bogey on the par-three 12th.

Juli Inkster fired a 70 to finish third at seven-under. Canada's Lorie Kane shot a 77 for 282, tied for fourth with Natalie Gulbis (66). *AFP*

Intervillage golf up at Sherwood

DEFENDING CHAMPION AYALA ALAbang heads seven teams seeing action in the first round of the South qualifying tournament of the MyPhone Presents The 16th Intervillage Golf Tournament Series today at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

The other entries are 2006 runner-up Hillsborough, Better Living-Don Bosco-Levitown, BF Homes Parañaque, BFRV Las Piñas, Magallanes, Pilar and Tahanan.

The second round is set Oct. 23 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club.

The top teams in the Intervillage South and North qualifying will advance to the two-round Grand Intervillage Championship slated Nov. 13 at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club and Nov. 19 at the Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club.

The Stableford format is being used in the series which culminates with the Grand Intervillage Championship on Nov. 13 at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club and Nov. 19 at the Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club.

Solid Group, represented by COO Jason Lim, has agreed to sponsor the annual event organized by Videocom headed by Vince Villafuerte.

"The Intervillage is looking forward to a fruitful partnership with MyPhone and Solid Group. Everybody is eager to get the event underway," said Villafuerte.

Hamilton heads 3-way fight for Formula One supremacy

SHANGHAI—FERNANDO ALONso has history on his side, even if the Spaniard suspects McLaren team bosses are against him in his battle to win a third Formula One championship in a row.

Teammate Lewis Hamilton remains the title favorite despite a Chinese Grand Prix that dealt the 22-year-old rookie his first retirement of the season after leading from pole position.

The Briton's agonizing slip, while limping back on worn tires, into the gravel trap at the pit lane entry transformed what had looked like a cruise to the championship into a three-way fight down to the wire.

Hamilton will now head for the final race in Brazil on Oct. 21 with 107 points to Alonso's 103 and 100 for Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

HAMILTON AP

"You can't go through life without making mistakes, I'm over it. I know the team is working very hard to make sure we can bounce back in Brazil," said Hamilton, who can still become the first rookie champion as well as the youngest.

"But don't worry there's still one race to go in Brazil, I can still do it."

Alonso, who finished second on Sunday behind Raikkonen, sounded less optimistic about his chances after an angry weekend in which he aimed some heavy criticism at his team.

"Hopefully I can do a good race (in Brazil) but for the championship, I still need something really dramatic if I want to win. With a normal race, it will be impossible," he said. *Reuters*

POC executives question choice of SEAG outfitter

THE WINNING BID OF BOXING equipment manufacturer Everlast as official outfitter of Team Philippines to the Southeast Asian Games did not sit well with some officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

A high-ranking POC official has accused his colleagues of influencing the outcome of the bidding process after the Philippine Sports Commission awarded the outfitting concession to Everlast despite coming up with the highest offer.

"The POC wrote a letter to the PSC recommending Everlast to become the official outfitter of the Philippine team to the SEA Games," said the POC official who requested anonymity. "In a bidding process, that move is downright unethical."

According to the same source, Grant had the lowest bid followed by Accel. Everlast was ranked last after presenting the most pricey proposal.

June Navarro

SUDDEN DEATH: Three-time MotoGP winner Norifumi Abe, 32, of Japan was killed in a street crash when his motorbike collided with a truck making an illegal U-turn on Oct. 8 AFP

RUGBY WORLD CUP

England battles France

MARSEILLE, FRANCE—England is braced for a monumental battle up front and defensively against France when the two sides meet in the rugby World Cup semifinal in Paris on Saturday.

England saw off Australia, 12-10, in a shock win in their quarterfinal, thanks largely to the front five outplaying an underpowered Wallaby scrum, and the backrow's domination of broken play.

France made an incredible 178 tackles in their upset 20-18 win over tournament favorites New Zealand in their first knockout game, relying on a blanket defense to fight back from a 13-3 deficit and nullify what was reputed to be the best attacking side in world rugby.

England scrum coach Graham Rowntree said the pack would have its work cut out against the French outfit. *AFP*

MVP comes to the rescue of amateur boxing

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE CASH-STRAPPED AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines is bristling with newfound confidence after PLDT-Smart chair Manuel V. Pangilinan recently agreed to fund the country's quest for the elusive Olympic gold by the national boxers to the tune of P18.4 million.

"This is the first time that we are supporting boxing and we will never waver," said Pangilinan during a recent interview. "The immediate goal is Beijing (host of next year's Olympic Games), but there's also 2012 in London," added the business tycoon, who is also known as MVP.

For his part, boxing association president Manny T. Lopez said the entry of MVP will surely go a long way in inspiring the men and women boxers to do their best.

"The Abap is keen on winning that first Olympic gold and we feel that now is the ripe time to accomplish that goal."

Lopez stressed that MVP even told him to get not just one but two or more Cuban coaches to help train and prepare the boxers for their Olympic campaign.

***

Pangilinan is much respected and well admired not only as a businessman but also as a generous patron of sports.

MVP is the moving spirit behind the unprecedented popularity of badminton in the Philippines. He is also into basketball, being the president of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas and is the owner of the Talk 'N Text team in the PBA. He is an avid supporter of both the San Beda Red Lions, recent NCAA back-to-back champions, and the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP. He is also an ardent supporter of taekwondo.

***

The Abap is the most bemedalled National Sports Association since 1924 when the Philippines first took part in the modern Olympic Games.

In 1932 in Los Angeles, Cely Villanueva started the string of Olympic successes when he won the bronze medal. Thirty-two years later, his son, Anthony Villanueva, won the country's first silver medal in the 1964 Tokyo Games with Abap under the exemplary leadership of the late sportsman-businessman Eugenio Puyat.

In the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Leopoldo Serantes won a bronze during the term of former Philippine Sports Commission chair and Manila Mayor Mel Lopez. Another bronze was won by Roel Velasco in 1992 in Barcelona.

Then in 1996 in Atlanta, with Mel's son, Manny Lopez, succeeding his father as Abap president, Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco duplicated Villanueva's silver-medal victory.

While the Philippines has yet to win an Olympic gold since 1924, our neighbors in the region like Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong have won gold medals in boxing, badminton and windsurfing, respectively.

Still, the younger Lopez exuded confidence, stressing that our boxers are among the best in the region at present. "Their participation in matches abroad, notably in Cuba—the world's hotbed of amateur boxing—will certainly enhance their chances of winning that much-coveted, long overdue gold in the Olympics."

***

From the least expected to the most expected: Underdog La Salle winning the 70th UAAP men's varsity title, beating highly favored University of the East twice in a row at the Big Dome in Cubao and boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, the heavy favorite, outsmarting Mexican idol Marco Antonio Barrera in 12 rounds at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas Sunday ... Five International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF) licensed adjudicators from Europe and Asia are coming over to judge the 11th National Championships-Alaxan FR Cup under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines. Set for Saturday at the Philsports Arena, DSCP president Becky Garcia said some 128 dance athletes are competing in the yearend event.

So zaps English GM, grabs solo lead

SO: Good gift for me.

4.5 points—**IM Wesley So (RP)**; 4.0—GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Ivan Popov (Russia), GM Georg Meier (Germany), GM Daniel Stellwagen (Netherlands), GM Ahmed Adley (Egypt), IM Hrant Melkumyan (US); 3.5—GM Wang Hao (China), GM Dmitry Andreikin (Russia), GM Victor Laznicka (Czech Republic), GM Deepan Chakkravarthy (India), GM Bassem Amin (Egypt), GM David Howell (England), IM Evgeny Romanov (Russia), IM Gopal Narayanan (India), IM Avetik Grigoryan (Armenia), Jayaram Ashwin (Armenia), Pablo Garcia (Spain)

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Wesley So toppled Grandmaster David Howell of England in the fifth round Sunday to grab the solo lead in the World Juniors and Girls Championships at the Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 13th-seed So, who turns 14 Tuesday, raised his total to 4.5 points in the tough, 13-round Swiss system tournament among players 20 years old and under.

In the sixth round on Tuesday, So will handle black against No. 9 German GM Georg Meier, who settled for a draw Sunday with No. 3 GM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel after 27 moves of a Caro Kann Defense.

Rodshtein and Meier were at 4.0 points, the same output of GM Ivan Popov of Russia, GM Daniel Stellwagen of the Netherlands, GM Ahmed Adley of Egypt, and IM Hrant Melkumyan of the United States.

Handling white, So showed his mastery of the Four Knights Game (Scotch Game transposition) to gain a pawn and positional advantage after Howell blundered in the 14th move. The Englishman resigned 23 moves later.

"This is a good gift," said So in an e-mail sent through his father William. "There's a long fight ahead but this is a good start."

A high school sophomore at St. Francis College in Bacoor, So is bidding to become the country's second GM in less than four weeks under the term of NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

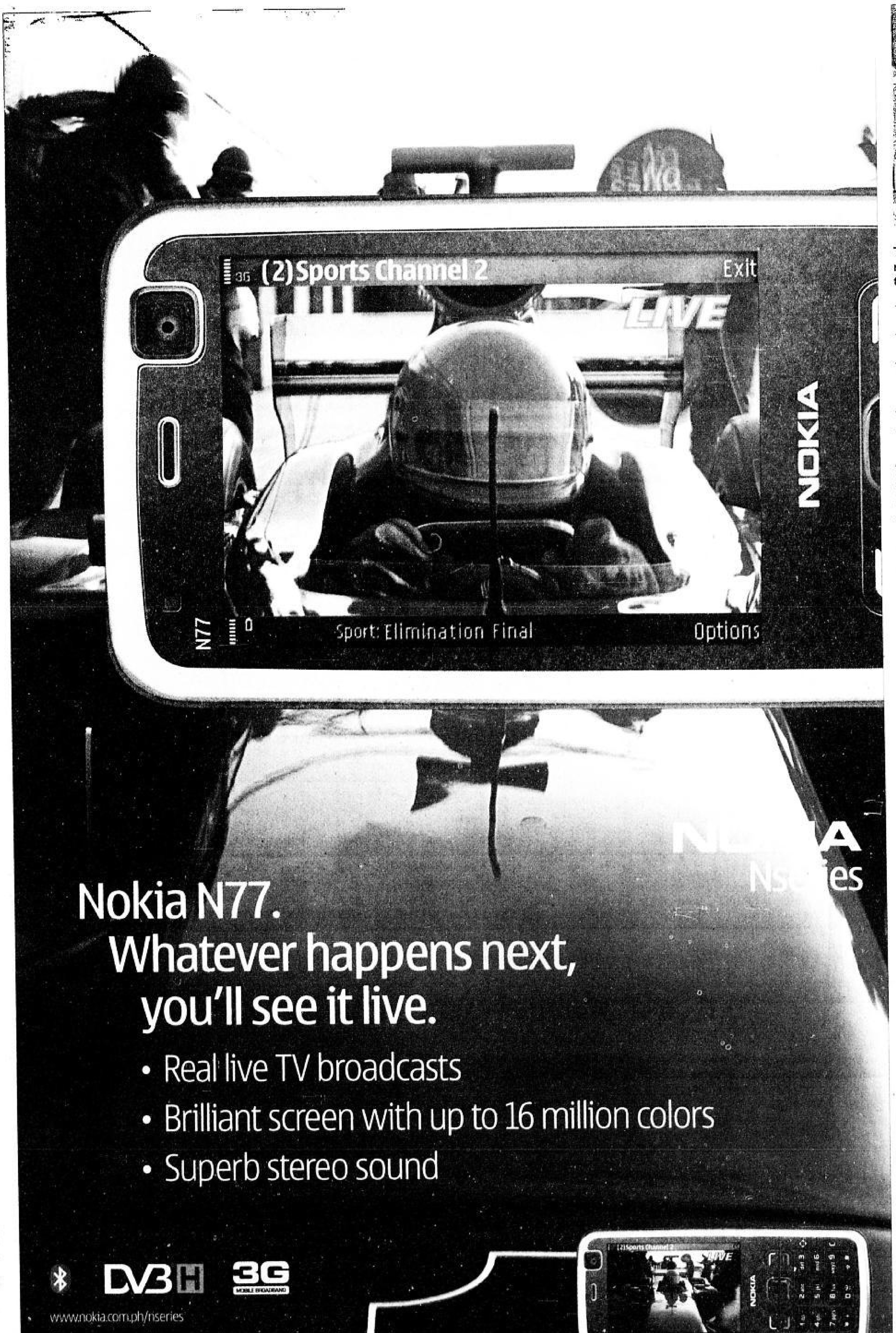
Late last month, Darwin Laylo completed his GM requirements at the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship in Mandaue City.

Other fifth round matches saw Stellwagen trounce GM Arman Pashikian of Armenia, Popov nip Dzurabek Khamrakulov of Armenia and Adley crush English GM Jones Gawain.

In the girls' 20-and-under play, Woman IM Vera Nebolsina of Russia beat overnight co-leader WFM Sarah Hoolt of Germany for her fifth victory in as many rounds.

Filipino WNM Aices Salvador scored her second win against WFM Ruth Lovece of Argentina for 2.0 points.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor



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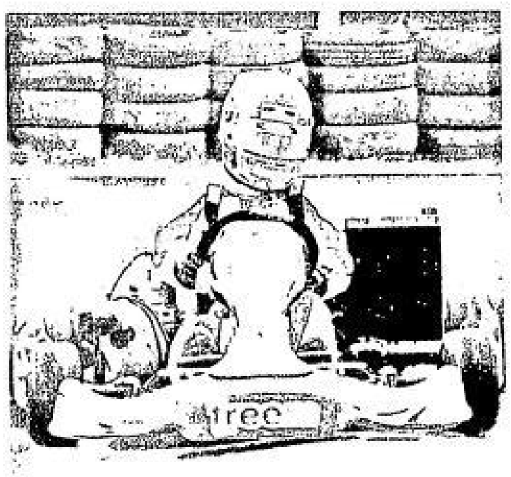

THREE-OF-THREE: Jean Stefano Marcelo en route to a masterful sweep of the three races in the Boomland leg of the Super Karting Series.

Karter of Year title in bag for Marcelo

JEAN STEFANO MARCELO CLINCHED THE Shell Helix Karter of the Year title with still one leg left following a masterful sweep of Sunday's seventh stage at the Boomland Kart Track of the CCP Complex in Pasay City.

It was an amazing achievement for the 15-year-old Marcelo, who captured the coveted plum on his first year in the Seniors division of the 2007 Karting Super Series.

Marcelo added the top karter award to his Cebu ROK Open crown and the Formula 125 championship.

"This is a fitting reward for all the struggles, controversies and hardwork the whole Marcelo Racing Team went through this season, and this title will put all other questions to rest," said Stefano, a third-generation member of the famous Marcelo racing clan.

Marcelo topped Sunday's three races in style. He posted the fastest lap time of 29.122 seconds in ruling Race 1 over Mike Casimiro, then beat Bobby Domingo by 6.127 seconds in Race 2. He nailed the sweep by checking in 5.645 seconds ahead of Domingo in Race 3.

Marcelo, who also leads the Asian Karting Open series after topping the Philippine and Indonesian legs, leaves today with the 10-man Philippine delegation to the ROK World Cup *(See related story on A22)* set Oct. 11-14 at the South Garda karting track in Lonato, Italy.

"I raced on the same track during the Italian Championship last year," he said. "It's tough going up against the world's best, but we'll do our best."

The son of jetski champion John Marcelo said his target is to make it to the top 30 in a field of 160 in the ROK Senior division.

Asian Under-14 tennis: 3 bets head Pinoy bid

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST JUNIOR PLAYers compete against Asia's cream of the crop in the Asian 14-and-Under Series starting today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Kyle Cordero, Jose Lorenzo Ferrer and Shanine Olivares, all veterans of the world and Asian championships, head the RP campaign in the tournament sponsored by the Australian Open and sanctioned by the Asian Tennis Federation.

Ferrer and Olivarez saw action in the World Juniors Championships held last April in India.

Championships will be disputed in the boys' and girls' singles and doubles.

Tournament director Loida Mallare said players in the singles competition must have personally signed in yesterday at the Philippine Tennis Association office. Doubles entries will be accepted today.

Apart from Cordero, Ferrer and Olivarez, the other bright stars in the RP challenge are Juan Cansino, Louise Lopez and Joana Peña. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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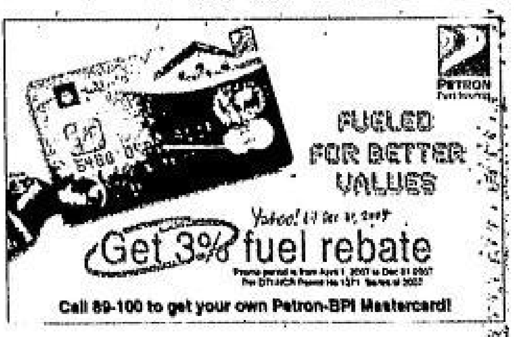
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Asian stock markets hit record highs

Weak dollar to boost regional currencies

ASIAN STOCKS HIT RECORD HIGHS YESTERDAY AND the dollar headed lower after a solid US jobs report failed to dampen expectations for a further cut in US interest rates.

By late morning trade, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan had risen 1.4 percent to 555.40 points, after hitting a record 556.43 earlier in the session.

"The end of the year is looking quite good. The US macroeconomic indicators are looking better than expected and sectors depending on China's good growth should continue to see momentum," said Kim Jeong-hwan, a strategist at Woori Investment and Securities.

MSCI's All Country World Index also brushed a fresh peak as indexes around Asia notched up record highs.

Australian shares rose 0.7 percent, after earlier hitting a lifetime high, with US-focused firms such as James Hardie Industries gaining on renewed optimism about the American economy, while firmer base metal prices boosted mining firms.

China's stock market also rose to a record after reopening following a week-long holiday break, with financial shares leading the charge, while Singapore's Straits Times Index rose 1.3 percent to a new all-time high.

Taiwan's benchmark index was up 1 percent at a two-month closing high and Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 2.1 percent. Seoul shares ended 0.8-percent higher after earlier hitting an all-time high.

But the US dollar remained under pressure. Solid US employment data on Friday did little to convince investors the US economy is growing fast enough to keep the Federal Reserve from cutting interest rates again.

The dollar was tested again yesterday as analysts concluded the US jobs market was still weakening and the Fed Reserve could cut rates again before yearend.

"People are very cautious about the US dollar's direction at the moment," said Ellison Chu of Standard Bank London in Hong Kong.

ASIAN/ B4

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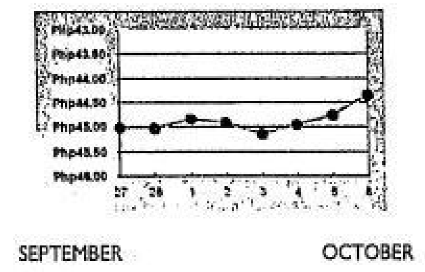

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.35 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 8, 2007

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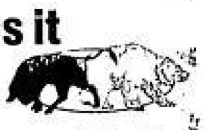


6-month, 1-year treasury bill rates ease further

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BENCHMARK LOCAL INTEREST rate based on the 91-day treasury bill hardly moved at the government's auction yesterday as the market believed the rates have bottomed, dealers said.

The market has previously factored in the quarter-percentage-point cut in short-term interest rates sanctioned by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last week, but with excess cash floating in the financial system, yields of longer term treasury bills eased further.

During the Bureau of Treasury's auction yesterday, the 91-day treasury bill rate, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing loans, averaged at 3.758 percent from 3.759 percent during the last auction on Sept 24.

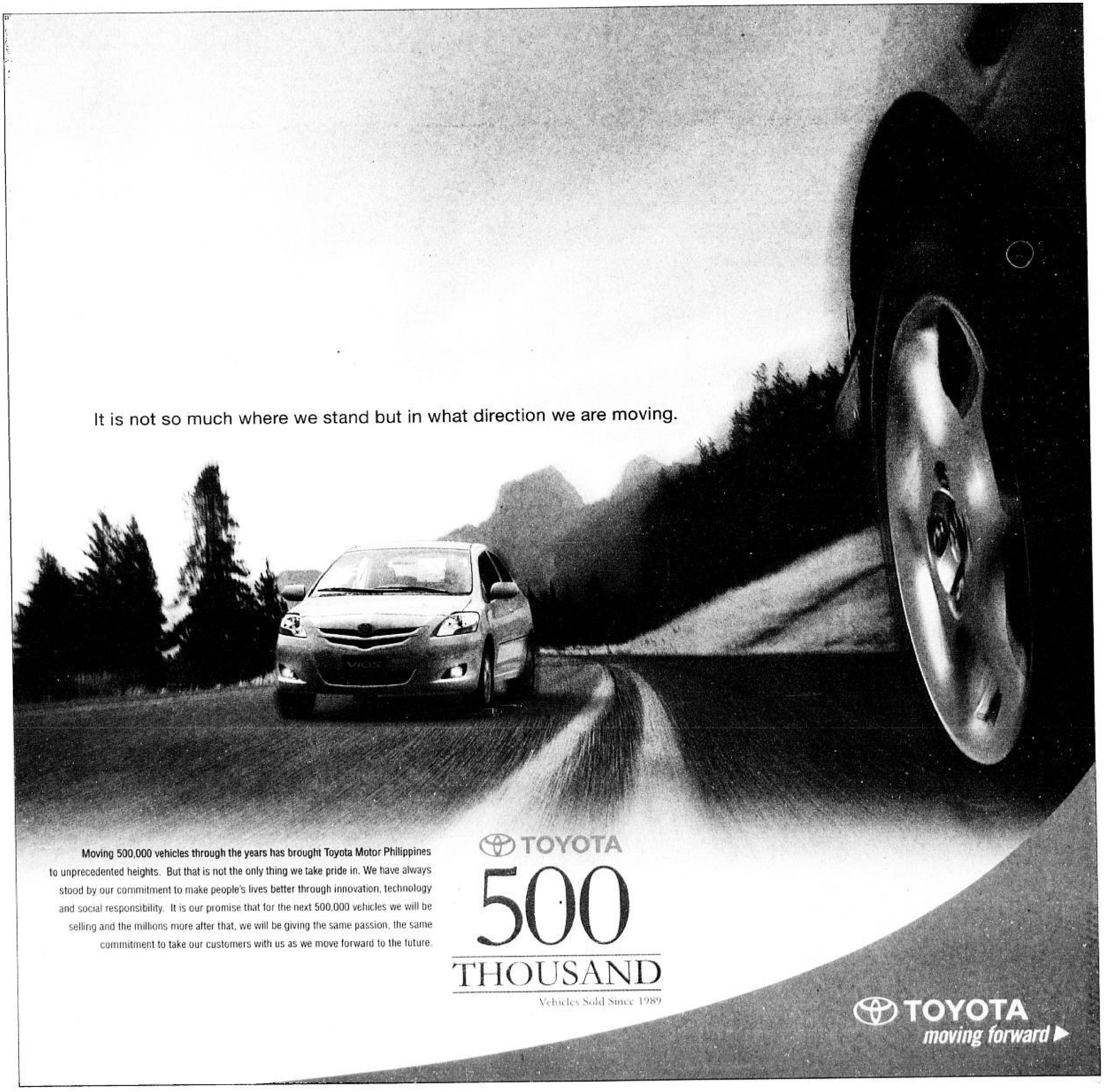
On the other hand, the 182-day rate averaged 4.812 percent, down from 4.832 percent, while the average rate for the one-year bills dropped to 5.628 percent from 5.643 percent.

"The market has (considered) most of the news and it's somehow seeing the floor. They see that interest rates have hit the bottom," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro-EPCIBank.

The view that interest rates had little room to ease further, he said, was reflected in the secondary trading of longer term government securities, particularly the five-year treasury bonds.

"So my outlook is that the rates will move sideways from now until such time that concerns on inflationary pressures arise," Ravelas said.

The government awarded only P4.49 billion out of the P6 billion worth of offer. There was partial rejection of bids in the 91-day bills, allowing the government to temper an increase in interest rates.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2 US banks get custody of BSP's offshore assets

$14B entrusted to JP Morgan Chase, Citibank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has placed about $14 billion of its offshore investments in the custody of American banking giants JP Morgan Chase and Citibank as of end-June this year.

In a recent report to the BSP's policymaking board, the central bank's asset portfolio handled by the two banks has also expanded by about 31 percent from a year ago.

The BSP's earnings from its offshore investments, aside from its fresh dollar purchases at the spot foreign exchange market, were cited as among the factors that contributed to the buildup in the country's gross international reserves (GIR).

The BSP reported as of last Friday that its foreign reserves had expanded to $30.7 billion by end-September, $200 million higher than the end-August level, due to the resurgence of foreign "hot money" inflows that allowed the BSP to resume heavy purchases of dollars to temper the peso's sharp rise.

Based on the BSP report, JP Morgan has a global custody of about $10.5 billion of the central bank's portfolio as of end-June, up by about 40 percent a year ago.

Funds placed with Citibank had likewise increased by about 11.5 percent to $3.5 billion as of the same period from a year ago.

In the first eight months of the year, the BSP generated $4.5 billion in investment income against only $2.5 billion a year ago, contributing to the increase in reserves even when there was a net outflow of hot money or portfolio investments in local stocks and bonds in the month of August.

Portfolio investments from abroad—also called as hot money due to their volatile nature—flowed back to the local stock and bond markets in September, following the higher-than-expected 50 basis point cut by the US Federal Reserve on its benchmark interest rate.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of the economy. It consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund.

The country's strong foreign reserve buildup since the start of the year has been supported by remittances from overseas Filipino workers, foreign direct investment and portfolio investments.

These inflows have allowed the BSP to become a heavy buyer of dollars at the Philippine Dealing System.

Building up its GIR is also one way of curbing the peso's appreciation against the US dollar, given the bearish trend for the greenback.

Telecom agency collects ₱1.98B in fees

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) yesterday reported that it collected administrative fees totaling P1.98 billion as of end-September.

The NTC said that, much of its revenue came from spectrum user's fees (SUF) and supervision and regulatory fees (SRF).

There were also payments from the issuance of licenses and permits from telecommunications and broadcast companies serving TV, radio and cable audiences.

The collection beat its self-imposed P1.8-billion target for the period.

But it is still a long way from the full-year collection target of P2.309 billion.

"The commission is expecting to collect some P200 million more by year-end, thereby raising the projected achievable target to P2.180 billion," the NTC said.

NTC chief Ruel V. Canobas earlier said that the NTC may not meet its P2.309-billion target for the year, which is 10 percent higher than last year's target of P2.125 billion.

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Affordable, not cheap, medicine, please

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HERE IS A SIMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE test.

One, the Senate is trying to rush its version of a priority measure in Congress informally known as "cheaper medicine bill."

Two, some of our fearless senators are still pushing for marathon hearings on the national broadband network (NBN) project.

Which of the two do you think will give a more lasting benefit to the guys down here in my barangay?

* * *

THE SENATE version of the cheaper medicine bill is officially known as "An Act to Provide for Quality Affordable Medicine."

Its main sponsor is Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas III, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, who actually started to champion the cause of lower priced medicine way back when he was still trade and industry secretary.

The cost of medicine in this country, generally, is one of the highest in the world, second only perhaps to its cost in the world's richest country, the United States.

Thus, taking a cue from Mar Roxas many years later, Congress now wants a law to force down the prices, mainly by allowing more importation of cheaper medicine, thereby creating competition against the multinational drug companies here.

In short, Congress wants to force the issue. Finally!

But everybody already knew that, except perhaps the senators who are fixated with the NBN contract between our DOTC and China's ZTE, which resulted in those marathon hearings eating up roughly 90 percent of the Senate's working time.

Buhay ka pa!

* * *

ANYWAY, the operative words in the title of the Senate version of the bill are "quality" and "affordable."

According to our contacts in the pharmaceutical industry, the Roxas bill is more acceptable to the multinational companies, precisely because of the equal importance it puts on "quality" and "price" of the medicine.

You see, to the guys down here in my barangay, the problem with imported medicine is this: What company do you sue in case it kills or maims people, or perhaps turns them—your kids, for instance—into vegetables?

That's why the Roxas bill wants safeguards in the quality of even—what word did it use again—well, "affordable" medicine.

Note that the Roxas bill avoided the term "cheap." Indeed, it connotes something inferior.

* * *

WHAT DO you know! The House of Representatives version is unabashedly called the "cheaper medicine bill," authored by Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron, who is also a doctor by profession.

Biron is the congressman who has been attacking the multinational firm Pfizer. You know, maker of Viagra.

Pfizer is also the company that sued the government firm Philippine International Trading Corp. over the antihypertension drug called Norvasc, claiming that the local firm infringed on Pfizer's patent on the medicine.

Anyway, Biron is the same guy who created a scene during the hearings in the House. He actually sent out of the room—and at the top of his voice, at that—a certain Karen Villanueva, apparently for the offense of being an executive of Pfizer, although at that time Villanueva was no longer working for Pfizer.

Thus, the question among our sources in the industry is: Why is Biron singling out Pfizer?

Of course, it does not help Biron that, based on his own of account, his family is also into the pharmaceutical business, both as manufacturer and distributor.

* * *

MEANWHILE, in the Senate hearing on the ZTE contract, some of our brave senators are still fumbling for statements that can link the Lola at the Palace and, of course First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo, to the controversy.

Enter Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who claims that telephone companies themselves were behind the "corrupt media blitz" against the NBN project.

Well, a recent study made by the IT research firm Ovum, which has offices in the United States, Europe and Asia, noted that the Philippines has one of the fastest growing broadband business.

As if on cue, PLDT and Globe came out publicly that they can handle the broadband services needed by the government.

In short, why bother with the NBN project?

But to the guys down here in my barangay, the NBN project will only deny billions upon billions of pesos worth of businesses to those two companies.

Never mind that the private broadband operators do not have the so-called last mile connectivity, which should only reach the most remote barangay in the poorest province in the country.

Why is that? Because such a service is not … well, profitable! Get it?

* * *

ON FRIDAY, Oct. 12, the Airbus A380 test aircraft that is on a "route proving flight" across the Pacific Ocean, will land at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA).

The A380 test flight will leave Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, France for a journey that will take it to Dubai, UAE; Melbourne, Australia; and on to Manila.

Now, named after the father of the Lola at the Palace, DMIA is the premier gateway designate of this cute administration.

Anyway, at 79 feet tall, the A380 is about as tall as an eight-story building. With a wingspan of nearly 262 feet, it is almost the size of a football field. The double-deck aircraft can thus accommodate 800 passengers.

Really, it is so far the largest passenger jet ever built on this planet.

And so the world may now know that DMIA can actually accommodate the new generation of large aircraft such as the A380. See, all is not lost in this country!

RP reported to be faring well in attaining UN goals

THE PHILIPPINES HAS SCORED WELL IN 12 out of 21 key human development indicators under the United Nation's Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), based on the Asian Development Bank's latest review.

A report released yesterday by the ADB, which tracked progress in attaining the MDG goals in Asia-Pacific, showed that the region as a whole was forging ahead on many of the MDG benchmarks. But the report noted that there was "uneven" progress within countries, and many of the less developed countries still needed global support to plug some of the development gaps.

"We are at the halfway mark towards the target date of 2015, and have a historic opportunity to change the lives of millions living in abject poverty," said Shiladitya Chatterjee, head of ADB's poverty unit.

The MDGs relate to poverty, nutrition, education, gender equality, infant mortality, maternal health, prevention of HIV and other diseases, water access, sanitation and environmental protection.

The report noted that the Philippines was now halfway through its target of reducing people trapped in extreme poverty—or those earning $1 a day or less—as the rate has eased to 14.8 percent as of 2004 from 19.8 percent in 1999.

"It is moving slowly towards the target, but will come very close to it by 2015," it said.

"The Philippines has reduced poverty at the national level, but did so more rapidly for households, where the head had completed at least primary education. Hence, in 2003, three out of five people lived in a household where the head had the lowest education level, a higher proportion than at the beginning of 1990s," according to the report.

The Philippines was cited as an "early achiever" in 8 of the 21 indicators—increasing the completion rate in primary school, promoting gender equality in primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education, reducing tuberculosis prevalence rate, increasing protected environmental areas and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

An early achiever means that the country has now achieved the targets for 2015.

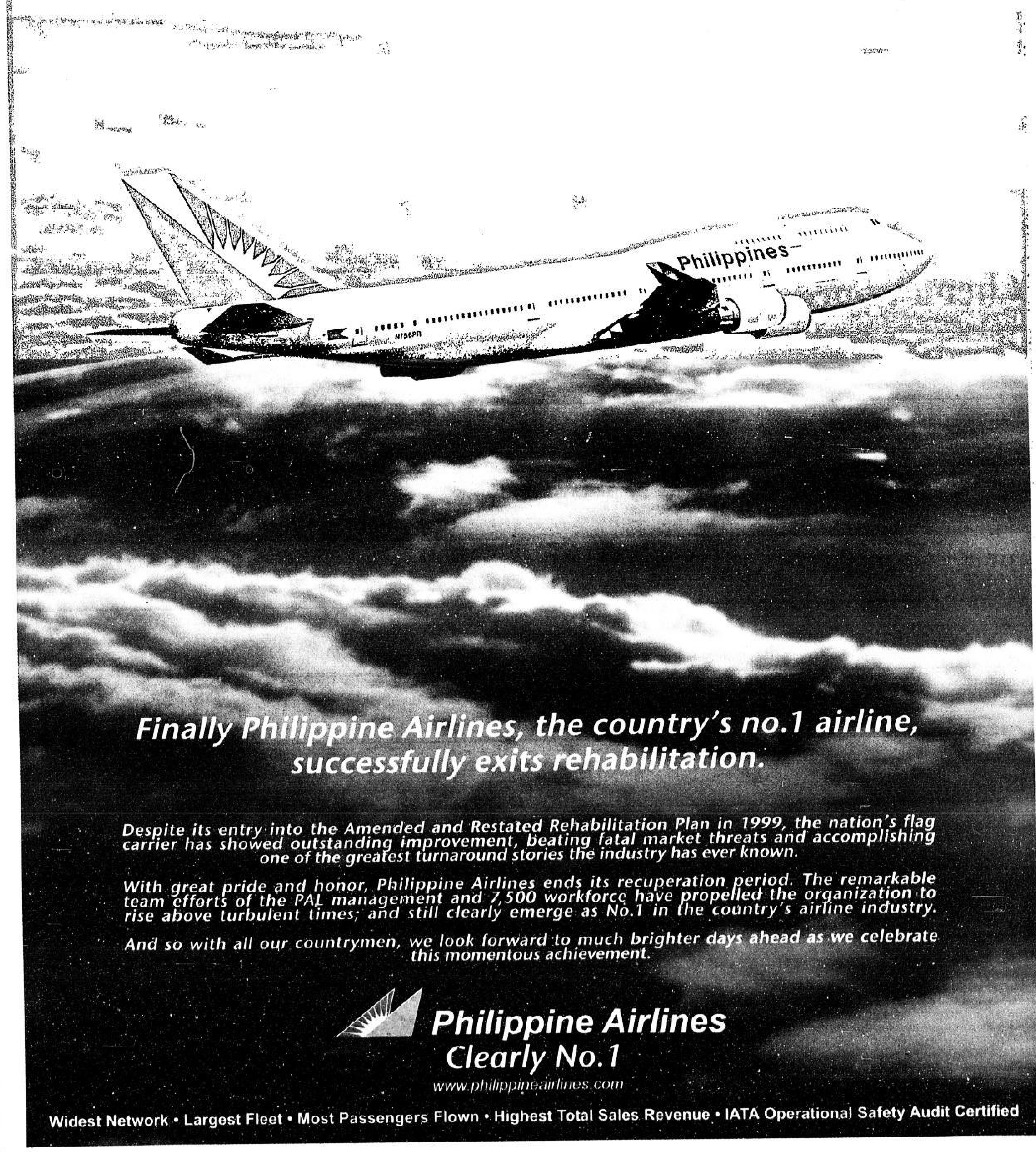
It was noted to be "on track" in other areas: Reduction of mortality of infants and HIV prevalence, and improvement of urban sanitation.

However, slow progress was noted in the reduction of $1-a day poverty, reduction of underweight children, improving water access in rural areas and improving sanitation in rural areas.

The country performed worst in the following areas: Increasing enrollment in primary school, increasing the number of children

RP REPORTED/ B5

Clearly, we're moving forward and flying high.



Finally Philippine Airlines, the country's no.1 airline, successfully exits rehabilitation.

Despite its entry into the Amended and Restated Rehabilitation Plan in 1999, the nation's flag carrier has showed outstanding improvement, beating fatal market threats and accomplishing one of the greatest turnaround stories the industry has ever known.

With great pride and honor, Philippine Airlines ends its recuperation period. The remarkable team efforts of the PAL management and 7,500 workforce have propelled the organization to rise above turbulent times; and still clearly emerge as No.1 in the country's airline industry.

And so with all our countrymen, we look forward to much brighter days ahead as we celebrate this momentous achievement.

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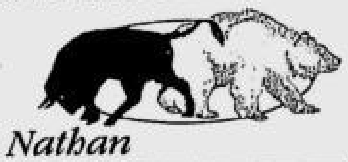

Ron Nathan

AN OLD MAN LEANS ON HIS CANE and says to his wife, "Do you remember the first time we made love 50 years ago? We went behind this very building where you leaned against the fence and we made love." "Yes," she said, "I remember it very well." "OK," he says, let's take a stroll and see if we can do it again for old time's sake." "Oh, you old devil, that sounds crazy at your age but let's try."

A police officer nearby hears their conversation and chuckling to himself thinks, "I have got to see these two old-timers having sex against a fence, just in case he has a heart attack," so he follows them.

The elderly couple walks slowly, leaning on each other for support, aided by walking sticks. Finally, they reach the fence and partially undress. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Suddenly, they erupt into the most furious sex the policeman has ever seen. This goes on for 10 minutes with both making loud noises, moaning and screaming. Finally, they both collapse, panting on the ground.

The policeman is amazed. He thinks he has learned something about life and old age that he didn't know.

After half an hour of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on.

The policeman is truly amazed, I have to ask them what their secret is. So, as the couple passes, he says to them. "Excuse me but that was fantastic. You must have had a wonderful sex life together. Is there some secret to this?"

Gasping, the old man replies. "50 years ago, there wasn't an electric fence."

* * *

I am feeling quite pleased with myself. Last week, I wrote that the monthly job-creation figures were notoriously unreliable and could well be revised by up to 70,000. Well, it was revised from negative 4,000 to plus 89,000, an error of 93,000! I suppose the Department of Labor cannot collate the data in such a short time, as it has to be sourced from 50 states stretching 3,000 miles from West and East. Given the correct data, I doubt whether BERNANKE would have cut by a half-point.

This month, I predicted 50,000 to 100,000. The actual figure was 110,000 so I give myself 9 out of 10. Next month, this figure could well be anywhere from zero to 200,000 though I doubt if the margin of error will be so huge this time around. To maintain the economy on track, the number of jobs created has to be 150,000 to 200,000 and that looks unlikely, so the economy does look to be slowing down gradually but not going into a recession. BERNANKE must be sore at being misled so badly but given the figures, he had no choice but to cut. Whether he will cut again on Oct. 30 is a moot point.

Of course, Wall Street responded in no uncertain fashion and the DOW is over 14,000 again. The analysts, who got it all wrong last time, predicting growth of 6.6 percent when it was 11.1 percent, will get it all wrong again. For the current quarter, they predict growth of only 2.7 percent but I am sure it will be much higher. The banks have slashed their third-quarter profits dramatically to allow for subprime losses but we should look at industrials and tech stocks, the latter a mixed bag. In about 3 weeks, we should be able to calculate earnings growth, year on year, as at least 75 percent of the S&P 500 index stocks should have announced their results. By Oct. 30, BERNANKE will have the annual growth rate of companies plus a revised figure for August.

Both FED chairmen have been asked how they decide when to raise or lower interest rates. Greenspan decided by instinct, based on decades of experience. He was regarded as a demigod and no President or even team member would query his judgment. When 9/11 happened, he slashed interest rates to a nominal 1 percent and within 3 months, the market had recovered. People equate wisdom with age and who am I to disagree?

BERNANKE is not so well placed. He is a generation younger and was appointed by President Bush. BERNANKE contacted many other people whose advice he respects before cutting 50 basis points. He told reporters that he does it with models, complex mathematical models. Nobody doubts his intelligence and capability to do the job, it is just that Greenspan is a hard act to follow.

One thing pleased me very much and that is how the whole world worked in conjunction to avoid the subprime turmoil from getting out of hand. Europe, the U.K., the U.S., Japan and Australia all released large amounts of liquidity into their economies and bailed out, or took over companies, which were vital to the national interest. If only they could work together on carbon emissions and global warming, we might yet save the planet from extinction by 2100.

China's stock market was closed last week for a holiday but the HANG SENG rose by up to 800 points a day, through 25,000, 26,000, 27,000. At this rate, we are likely to see 30,000 before long. The forecast of growth at 11.6 percent sent BHP and metal prices soaring and gold hit a 27-year high of $750 an ounce. However, it still has a lot of catching up to do. It was $850 in 1980 when I doubled my money in 17 days, buying South African gold shares when the metal broke the critical $420 resistance level and selling at the top (pure luck).

All Asian and Europe markets followed the DOW and Asian currencies strengthened again the weak dollar. Despite a 25-basis point cut by our central bank, the peso has appreciated to 44.43 to a dollar. HSBC sees the peso at 40 and BNP PARIBAS, France's largest bank, sees the peso at 42 this year, 37 next year and 30 by 2010. Heaven forbid, but we are usually at par with the baht, which is currently 34.

ABALOS resigned after NERI told the Senate that he had offered him a P200-million bribe. I am abalos to understand how he was appointed to a government position.

Campbell's recalled 72,300 cans of Chunky Baked Potato with Cheddar and Bacon bits. Unfortunately, some soup contained bits of plastic. All they had to do was to modify the label to read cheddar, bacon and plastic bits. It has been withdrawn from the soupermarket.

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Chemrez profit rises by 572%

Abigail L. Ho

LISTED FIRM CHEMREZ TECHnologies Inc. registered a 572-percent surge in after-tax net income to P353 million in the first nine months of the year from only P52 million in the same period last year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said its consolidated gross revenues jumped 60 percent to P2.74 billion as of end-September from P1.71 billion last year.

It attributed the revenue and profit increase to the stronger economy, the appreciating peso and the continued development of environment-friendly products in the country.

For the third quarter alone, Chemrez chief finance officer Francis Caluag said the company chalked up P154.8 million in profits, up from P11.7 million in the same period a year ago.

"Consumer spending, attributable in large part to strengthening inflows from overseas Filipinos, translated to increased sales of intermediate raw materials to industrial customers who are primarily engaged in food service and processing, consumer appliances, home furnishings, construction, soap and detergent, and consumer care products," he said.

Apart from being the country's biggest producer of biodiesel, Chemrez also manufactures industrial products such as water-based solvents, paints and resins.

Only five months into the implementation of the Biofuels Act of 2006, biodiesel and other oleochemical products already accounted for 35 percent of consolidated revenues and 53 percent of gross profits.

IPVG starts new outsourcing venture

By Riza T. Olchondra

LISTED ICT FIRM IPVG CORP. SAID yesterday that it has moved to start a joint venture with an India-based company to offer treasury outsourced services.

IPVG said it signed a memorandum of agreement with Credence Analytics (India) Pvt. Ltd. in India, under which both parties have agreed to form a special purpose joint venture for an undisclosed amount. The joint venture will offer "treasury outsourced services" to banking and financial institutions.

"The purpose of the transaction is for the mutual benefit of the parties in expanding its businesses in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) industry in the Philippines and in India. With the combination of the strengths and expertise of both parties, they intend to advance the industry and contribute to establish the Philippines as not just a call center hub but a high-value BPO hub, and eventually tap the global banking and financial sector," IPVG said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Under the MOA, the parties will form a joint-venture company in the Philippines with to provide treasury outsourced services to banking and financial institutions.

Initially available only in the Philippines and in India, the goal is to expand the service globally, IPVG said.

Asian stock ...

From page B1

"This week is very crucial, especially comments from the FOMC this week," said Chu.

The Federal Open Market Committee on Tuesday will issue the minutes of its Sept. 18 meeting, at which it slashed the fed funds rate by a half percentage point to 4.75 percent.

The dollar index, a gauge of the currency's value against a basket of major currencies, was at 78.32, above last week's record low of 77.66 but down from 78.819 hit after the jobs data.

Oil prices fell, extending the previous session's losses, as investors turned their focus to a slowdown in the US economy after hurricane concerns in the Atlantic abated.

US crude fell 47 cents to $80.75 a barrel in Globex electronic trading.

Gold tiptoed lower to $740.40/741.20, barely changed from $741.10/741.90 in New York on Friday. *Reuters*

CURRENCIES

October 8, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.707414	1.000000	44.7680
Japan	Yen	0.006052	0.008555	0.3830
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444539	2.042000	91.4163
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091208	0.128932	5.7720
Switzerland	Franc	0.600521	0.848896	38.0034
Canada	Dollar	0.721483	1.019888	45.6583
Singapore	Dollar	0.480776	0.679625	30.4255
Australia	Dollar	0.635192	0.897908	40.1975
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.877425	2.653928	118.8110
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189022	0.267201	11.9621
Brunei	Dollar	0.479148	0.677323	30.3224
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022436	0.031716	1.4199
UAE	Dirham	0.192651	0.272331	12.1917
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.413600	63.2840
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001092	0.0489
China	Yuan**	0.094245	0.133225	5.9642
Denmark	Kroner	0.134194	0.189696	8.4923
India	Rupee	0.018009	0.025458	1.1397
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208124	0.294204	13.1709
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537508	0.759821	34.0157
Sweden	Kroner	0.109415	0.154669	6.9242
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021706	0.030684	1.3737

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 5, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 5, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 8, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	81,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	61.5	64	61.5	64	1,418,000
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70	72	70	71.5	3,032,300
748	504	China Banking Corp.	730	730	710	725	1,800
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	2,490,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	63	65	63	64	5,799,700
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	52.5	54	52.5	52.5	47,200
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62.5	62	62.5	3,200
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	29	28	28	647,000
90	52.5	Security Bank Corp.	77.5	78	77.5	78	23,100
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54	54.5	54	54	375,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.05	120,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.96	2.04	1.96	2	10,301,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.5	13.5	12.5	13.25	2,474,600
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,885.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,850.00	1,885.00	1,850.00	1,885.00	6,100
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	405,000
3.1	1.04	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	235,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	830	830	815	815	2,620
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,345.00	2,355.00	2,345.00	2,355.00	1,450
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	40,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.5	3,966,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.38	1,130,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68	69.5	68	69	1,375,800
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84	85.5	84	85.5	285,800
16	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	15	15	14.5	14.75	5,606,500
105.45	19.32	Manila Electric Company	85	87	85	85.5	1,039,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	28,319,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6	6.3	5.9	6.2	12,411,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.4	270,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.34	790,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	177,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.1	2.2	2	2.02	2,289,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	13,600
61	36.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	54.5	53	54	992,700
0.98	0.45	RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	740,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	207,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	62	62.5	62	62.5	18,400
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	65	65	64.5	64.5	187,400
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	95,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	2,936,900
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.41	390,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.95	EEI Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	62,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	10.5	12	10.5	12	105,600
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	1,637,000
7	1.64	Republic Cement Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	50,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.34	10,012,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.75	3,672,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.04	1	1.04	330,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.135	Picop Resources Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.43	0.44	66,720,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.2	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	66,000
0.17	0.026	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	43,230,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.82	0.82	17,430,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	3.05	3.1	2.95	2.95	571,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	192,500,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	12,000,000
9.7	5.5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7	7.3	7	7.2	1,194,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.016	177,200,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	7,283,000
1.38	0.52	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	120,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.36	2.38	1,518,000
16	4.5	Atok-Big Wedge Company Inc. A	9.8	11	9.8	11	3,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	595	600	580	580	393,850
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	3,100
5.8	1.32	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.65	4.4	4.55	8,413,000
10.25	4.15	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	1,617,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.35	107,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Princ.e Holdings Corp. A	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	70,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	1,529,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.08	433,000
14.5	6.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	255,700
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.8	1.8	570,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	50,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	7.9	8.7	7.8	8.4	28,265,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.28	0.28	0.22	0.225	1,729,920,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	620,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	410	422.5	410	412.5	312,210
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	8,760,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	200,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	326,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	10,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.39	0.45	0.39	0.43	58,030,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	120,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.98	A Brown Company Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	571,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	9,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	13,192,700
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.28	1.28	2,272,000
3.83	1.33	City and Land Developers Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	14,000
0.86	0.32	Crown Equities Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.67	2,150,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,100,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.79	0.79	13,420,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.29	53,860,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	10,625,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.82	36,480,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	350,000
0.5	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	280,000
1.12	0.25	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.63	0.63	6,500,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.15	4.15	91,263,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	82,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.39	0.43	0.39	0.4	12,930,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.62	2,360,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20.25	19.75	20	4,862,000
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.55	4.75	4.55	4.65	3,180,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12.25	11.75	12	17,728,100
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.32	2.4	2.32	2.4	79,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	350,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.3	26,580,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.1	2,416,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	17	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	101,300
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.1	2,305,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.66	1.54	1.6	14,031,000
1,705.00	1,070.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,620.00	1,705.00	1,620.00	1,670.00	204,580
3,285.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,105.00	3,285.00	3,105.00	3,265.00	173,810
8.1	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.6	8.1	7.6	8	20,274,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.21	16,220,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	14,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.3	9.8	9.3	9.7	5,365,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.044	110,600,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. A	17	17	17	17	800
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.78	1.78	160,000
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.21	0.21	74,920,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	110,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.06	513,600,000
5.8	1.3	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l. Inc.	2.75	3.05	2.7	2.85	13,915,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	44,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.3	145,000
40	18	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	37.5	37.5	37	37.5	1,958,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.64	1.9	1.62	1.9	19,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	615,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	4.95	4.95	67,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod'ns Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.64	0.64	930,000
1.2	0.43	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.85	0.87	0.83	0.83	710,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	493,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	5.2	5.2	5	5	427,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	173,800
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	11.5	12	10.5	10.5	2,010,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	95,800,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	172,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	553,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	16	15.5	15.75	2,705,400
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3.5	4.2	3.5	3.9	314,000
3.1	0.53	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.55	2.65	65,339,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	8,210,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	5,740,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	175,300,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	27,100,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	20.75	22.5	20.75	21.5	5,620,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	905,200,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.3	10,343,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	36	38	36	37.5	115,500
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1.02	0.99	0.99	933,000
1.8	0.57	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	988,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	6,990,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	571,500,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	202,300,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.029	762,600,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	977.26	UP	14.57	27,610,070	796,154,145.00
Industrial	4,760.94	UP	75.59	145,829,300	808,251,450.00
Holding Firms	2,170.34	UP	27.87	2,293,109,860	1,205,300,005.00
Property	1,767.39	UP	24.46	302,453,800	1,092,658,070.00
Service	1,933.41	UP	82.15	779,596,390	1,369,030,505.00
Mining & Oil	7,714.59	UP	38.57	2,847,822,900	503,891,725.00
All Shares Index	2,409.42	UP	46.45		
PSEI	3,873.50	UP	97.59		
		GRAND TOTALS		6,396,422,320	5,775,285,900.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

RP reported to be …

From page B2

reaching grade 5, increasing forest cover and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Compared to other Southeast Asian economies, the Philippines was at par with Indonesia, which also scored well in 12 out of 21 indicators, but lagged behind Thailand and Malaysia, which had 16 positive points each, and Vietnam, which had 14 positive.

But though it lagged behind its neighbors, the Philippines attained a more positive rating in this year's report compared to the MDG assessment last year, when the country was cited as among eight countries that scored poorly in the development indicators. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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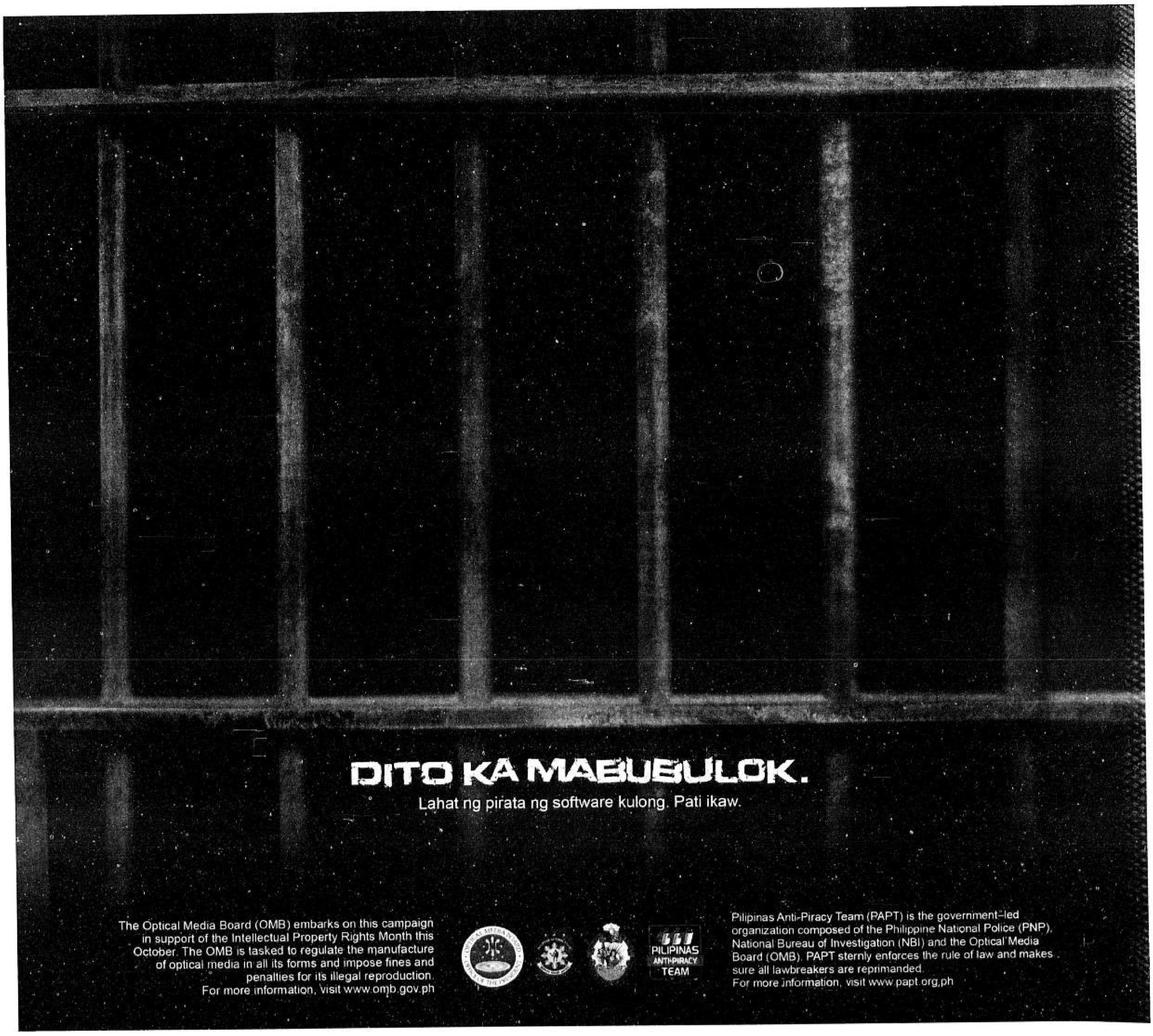
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PILIPINAS ANTI-PIRACY TEAM

The Optical Media Board (OMB) embarks on this campaign in support of the Intellectual Property Rights Month this October. The OMB is tasked to regulate the manufacture of optical media in all its forms and impose fines and penalties for its illegal reproduction.
For more information, visit www.omb.gov.ph

Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) is the government-led organization composed of the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Optical Media Board (OMB). PAPT sternly enforces the rule of law and makes sure all lawbreakers are reprimanded.
For more information, visit www.papt.org.ph

SM group to consolidate all property interests under one unit

Shoemart Inc. seen holding IPO

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LISTED HOLDING FIRM SM INVESTMENTS Corp. said it would merge all its property interests under Shoemart Inc., an investment company of the Sy family.

INQUIRER sources said the SM Group could be making this move in preparation for the initial public offering of Shoemart Inc., which was an option open to the SM group.

The sources, however, stressed that a decision on this has yet to be made and that it was still too early to conclude that Shoemart Inc. would be undertaking an IPO.

In a disclosure, SM Investment said the consolidation of its property businesses under Shoemart would be implemented through a share swap arrangement.

Under an agreement approved by the boards of SM Investments and Shoemart, the former will transfer its entire holdings in residential arm SM Development Corp. (SMDC) to Shoemart.

SM Investments owns 1.82 billion shares or 48.64 percent of SMDC, while Shoemart controls 15.6 percent of SMDC as of Sept. 30, data from the Philippine Stock Exchange showed. Shoemart will end up owning SMDC.

In exchange for its stake in SMDC, SM Investments will receive new Shoemart shares.

The percentage ownership has yet to be determined pending valuations to be approved by regulators.

In a disclosure, SM Investments said it had engaged Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. as the financial adviser for the deal.

Once the consolidation is completed, Shoemart will be taking over the property development companies of the SM Group and their projects—which include residential, commercial , tourism and hotel development ventures.

Two months ago, SM Investments started simplifying its corporate structure by designating Shoemart as the "main company for the property development efforts" of its entire group.

The move was approved by SM Investment's board as part of the reorganization of the firm's corporate structure.

Last August, SM Investments said it was planning to swap the 1.52 billion SMDC shares it was holding for 385,000 Shoemart shares. Sources said this would have resulted in SM Investments owning about 67 percent of Shoemart which, in turn, would acquire 70 percent of SMDC.

However, this plan did not materialize and SM Investments said it would, instead, swap its 1.82 billion SMDC shares for Shoemart shares.

SM Investments said in August that Shoemart would raise its capital stock to P1 billion from P500 million.

FORMER ILOILO AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT
Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan (left) shakes hands with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to seal the P1.2-billion cash purchase of the former Iloilo airport from the government. Megaworld is allocating P1.5 billion for the initial cost of developing the 54.5-hectare property into a fully integrated township project with commercial, business process outsourcing (BPO) and residential facilities.

NW Palawan drilling starts

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING FOR AN available drilling rig, Galoc Production Co. (GPC)—operator of Service Contract 14C—has finally started drilling activities in its contract area in offshore Northwest Palawan.

According to a Department of Energy bulletin, the consortium started drilling last Sunday, following the arrival in the country of the Energy Searcher drill ship last Friday.

The company will drill a pilot hole that will enable the consortium to determine the geological properties of the reservoir in the southern part of the contract area.

This would aid GPC in the planning and design of succeeding production wells. Drilling of the pilot hole and two horizontal wells would take 82 days to complete, with the production test to take another 180 days, according to the drilling bulletin.

The targeted structure has estimated recoverable reserve of about 16 million barrels. The initial phase of development involves an investment of about $86 million."

GPC country manager Kay Palma earlier said the $86-million investment covered the funding requirement from 2005 up to the first drawing of oil from the field.

About 77 percent of this would come from GPC, she said. The balance would be shouldered by Australia's Nido Petroleum Ltd., which has a 22.28-percent stake in the project.

GPC owns 58.29 percent of SC 14. Other shareholders are Philodrill Corp., Oriental Petroleum and Minerals, Linapacan Oil, Gas and Power, Forum Energy, Alcorn Gold Resources and PetroEnergy Resources.

Coconut exports down 28.4%

EXPORTS OF MAJOR COCONUT products slipped by 28.4 percent in the first eight months of the year, data from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines showed.

Coconut exports as of August reached 1.01 million metric tons in copra terms, down from 1.41 million metric tons recorded in the same period last year.

In August, alone, Ucap data showed that exports hit 146, 721 MT in copra terms, down by 10.1 percent from last year's 163,241 MT. This was also 4.2 percent lower than the July exports of coconut products of 153,262 MT.

The oleochemicals sub-sector recorded a 136.7-percent increase to 16,469 MT during the month from year ago's 6,958 MT.

However, exports of desiccated coconut dropped by 37.5 percent to 9,289 MT from year ago's 14,851 MT.

Coconut oil lifting was slashed by 13.1 percent to 73,011 MT from last year's 83,993 MT, while that of copra meal was down by 3.8 percent to 15,618 MT from last year's 16,243 MT.

For August, the US was the biggest export market for Philippine coconut oil, cornering 51.5 percent of the total trade.

Exports reaching the European market amounted to 23,295 metric tons, or 31.9 percent of the country's total coconut products shipments for August.

Other major markets for coconut oil during the period were Japan, China and Malaysia.

For the full January-August export figures, Ucap said coconut oil exports were estimated to have reached 508,817 MT (down 32.6 percent from last year's 754,964 MT); copra meal, 230,861 MT (down 19.6 percent from 287,174 MT); desiccated coconut, 84,023 MT (down 9.6 percent from 92,972 MT), and oleochemicals, 75,954 metric tons (up 4.3 percent from 72,844 MT). *Amy R. Remo*

RP-China farm deals still on

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture expects to push through with all the controversial RP-China farm agreements by next year.

However, it said it would have to amend the mechanisms for their implementation.

"The projects are not canceled, at least for the agriculture side, but we have to engage in consultations," said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

Yap told reporters that he would be calling for consultations with all farmers and stakeholders by end-October to December.

Yap said there were too many questions and fears raised by these stakeholders, particularly on land and investment issues.

He said the DA would need time to evaluate the findings of the technical committee, resulting in delays in these projects' implementation.

Yap earlier suspended two farm deals—with Jilin Fu Hua Agricultural Science and Technology Development Co. and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Government—while the Senate was inquiring into the controversial broadband deal with ZTE Corp. of China.

In his recent trip to China, Yap said the Chinese government did not even bring up the issue of suspension.

"The Chinese companies and government also understand that we're only being transparent and that we have to expand consultations with our stakeholders," he said.

Even with the scrapping of the broadband deal, Yap said President Arroyo was still confident that "development assistance will continue to flow into the Philippines."

"That's where we are coming in because agriculture has needs for development assistance," Yap stressed.

According to Yap, the General Santos fish port expansion was built through Chinese ODA, and that the Banahao pump irrigation project in Ilocos was put up through a Chinese funding as well.

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- Basic Adobe Photoshop skills

GRAPHIC ARTISTS
Qualifications:
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- Exceptional designing skills
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MARKETING MANAGER
Qualifications:
- College Graduate, Major in Marketing, Advertising, or Mass Communication with at least 2 years product development experience.
- Knowledge on market research, 4Ps of marketing-product, price, promotion and placement strategies.
- Must possess skills on business planning and writing, analysis, planning and organizing, monitoring, project management, leadership, presentation and negotiation.

MARKETING ASSISTANT
Qualifications:
- College Graduate, Major in Marketing, Advertising, or Mass Communication.
- Knowledge on marketing concepts.
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Knowledge of basic design software applications an advantage. (Photoshop, InDesign)
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills.

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- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course.
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- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work.
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Interested applicants may send their resumes to any of the ff: prod classifieds@inquirer.com.ph, ilimbo@inquirer.com.ph, spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph, jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resume, two (2) 2x2 photos; Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
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3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 09, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES CIP I, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Kazuyuki Ishizawa/ Japanese	Technical Advisor of HDD Equipment Engineering Section
2.	PHILIPPINE YUSHIN, INC. Daiichi Industrial Park, Maguyam, Silang, Cavite	Mr. Masaoki Yamashita/ Japanese	General Manager
3.	HOFFEN INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Paliparan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	Mr. Weihua Wang/ Chinese	Production Technician
4.	HOFFEN INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Paliparan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	Mr. Xiaoping Sheng/ Chinese	Production Technician
5.	D & A INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Jinkyu Lee/ Korean	Finishing Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI – October 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for December 2007 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Printing and Supply of Nurses Licensure Examination (NLE) Test Booklets	P 4,452,000.00 at P 0.53/page	October 16, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	October 29, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 4,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on October 9, 2007.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on October 9, 2007 from the Office of the BAC Secretariat.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI-October 9, 2007)

Our Dearly Beloved

JOHN WILLIAM RICE

(June 9, 1953 – October 5, 2007)

will be cremated on October 13, 2007
at the Heritage Memorial Park Crematorium
after the 1:00 p.m. Mass
at the Arlington Memorial Chapel,
Pasig City.

"...absent
from the
body to be
present with
the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

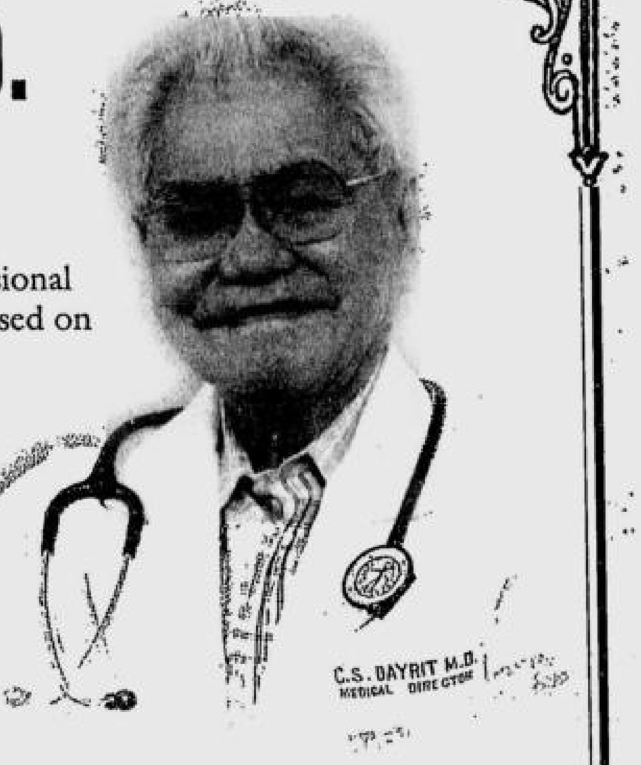
DR. CONRADO "Ading" S. DAYRIT

Retiree of Medical Affairs
United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 6, 2007 at the age of 88.

His body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills. Interment will be on October 12 at Loyola Marikina.

CONRADO S. DAYRIT, M.D.



Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather,
and Great-Grandfather

After 88 years of a life full of loving relationships, professional achievements, and faithful obedience to God, Daddy passed on to eternal life peacefully on October 6, 2007.

We will all miss his loving embrace, warm smile and assuring counsel.

Wife **Mila Millar Dayrit**; children and spouses

Manolet and **Ellerie Sto. Niño**, **Jun Jun** and **Baby Fugoso** (†), **Toby** and **Maricor Baytion**, **Eddie** and **Jenny Dugan**, **Raffy** and **Judy Grey**, **Iggy** and **Eleanor Tiglao**, **Gina** and **Alberto Fernandez**, **Francis** and **Minna Cruz**;
grandchildren **Sophia** and **Roxanne**; **Joel** and **Miya**; **Enzo**, **Tati** (†) and **Felicia**; **Patty**, **Vicente**, **Joanna**, **Angela**, **Camille**, **Cecile** and **Samantha**; **Marco** and **Marika**; **Camilla** and **Teresa**; **Katherine**, **Mishael** and **Micah**; **Carlos** and **Isabel**; and grandchild-in-law **Jehremiah Asis** and great-grandchild **Joseph** request all people whose hearts and lives Daddy has touched and influenced to be with us in prayer and loving remembrance of his wonderful life.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. Interment will be on October 12, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Santuario de San Jose.

In lieu of flowers, you may consider donating to your favorite charity.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit Digital Forensic Imaging System for Currency Notes, Coins and Security Documents per BSP specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	USD 78,098.45
Delivery Period	Delivery to port of loading shall be within ninety (90) calendar days after opening of LC

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the approved budget for the contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 08 October 2007 (Up to 2 PM only)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	29 October 2007, 2:00 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	13 November, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	)
6. Notice of Award	)

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA
Chairman

(PDI – October 9, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following series of Official Receipt (CR) and Provisional Receipt (PR) of SCANASIA OVERSEAS, INC. are missing:

OR #	PR #
136655	45407
136667	45408
136668	45409
136672	

All transactions involving the use of the said receipts are therefore considered as INVALID.

For further inquiries, please call our office @ 815-0123

(PDI – October 9, 14 & 22, 2007)

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- With experience

"ADMIN STAFF"
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- With pleasing personality

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Please bring your resumé along with you
Interview Venue: 806 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THIS NUMBER.
CONTACT NO.: 497-8437

ERRATUM

The Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid by the National Power Corporation published last **September 25, 2007**, is for a **Supply Contract** and **not a Lease Contract**. The phrase "The source of funds for the Lease Contract" should have read **"The source of funds for the Supply Contract..."**

(PDI–October 9, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	Supply and delivery of eight hundred seventy-seven (877) kilos Nickel Anodes per BSP specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**P3,332,600.00**
Delivery Period	Not later than December 5, 2007

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed from Y2005 to present amounting to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/s of the item/s to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 09 October 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	29 October 2007; 3:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	13 November 2007; 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,700.00** to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–October 9, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

Provincial Government of Bukidnon

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Name of Projects:

1. Project Reference No. 300-07-28 **Supply & Delivery of Various Construction Materials for Talakag Water System Project: F.O.B. Talakag, Bukidnon**

Description / Location of the Project

8"Ø CI Gate Valve F/F w/ BNG & Flange steel ring, 8"Ø CI Adaptor F/M w/ BNG & Flange steel ring, 8"Ø x 6"Ø – CI Reducer M/M w/ BNG, 6"Ø x 4"Ø – C.I. Reducer w/ BNG, 4"Ø x 90º – CI Elbow M/M w/ BNG, 4"Ø x 3"Ø – CI Reducer M/M w/ BNG, Lubricants (ordinary oil), 4"Ø x 2"Ø CI Tee Reducer M/F w/ BNG & flange steel ring+G39, 2"Ø CI Adaptor M/F w/ BNG w/ Flange steel ring, 2"Ø x 6.0m – GI Pipe Sch.40, 2"Ø x 2"Ø – Angle Fire Hydrant Valve, 6"Ø x 90º CI elbow F/F w/ BNG & Flange Steel ring, 6"Ø x 90º CI elbow M/M W/ BNG, 6"Ø x. 60m GI Nipple Sch 40 TBE, 6"Ø x 6.0m GI Pipe Sch 40, 6"Ø CI Adaptor M/F w/ BNG & Flange Steel ring, 8"Ø x 90º CI Elbow F/F w/ BNG & Flange steel ring, 8"Ø x 90º CI Elbow M/M w/ BNG, 8"Ø x 6.0m – GI Pipes Sch. 40, 8"Ø x 3"Ø CI Tee Reducer M/M w/ BNG, 6"Ø x 3"Ø – CI Tee Reducer M/M w/ BNG, 6"Ø x 4"Ø – CI Tee Reducer M/M w/ BNG, 3"Ø x 2"Ø – CI Tee Reducer M/M w/ BNG, Turn Buckle for 1 3/4" Cable, Cable Bearing Cap, Portland Cement, Welding Rod, 1' Dia. U-bolt w/ nut & washer (heavy duty), L=4," W=1 3/4," threaded @ 2 1/4" Clean Sand (Washed), 10mmØ x 6.0m – DSB, #16 G.I. Tie Wires, 1,568.0 pcs. – 2" x 3" x 12' – Coco Lumber, 682.0 pcs. – 2" x 4" x 2' – Coco Lumber, 16mmØ x 6.0m – DSB, 20mmØ x 6.0m – DSB, 1 3/4"Ø Cable, 1 1/4"Ø Cable, 350 pcs. – 2" x 2" x 10' – Good Lumber, 50 pcs. 2" x 3" x 10' – Good Lumber, 12mmØ x 6.0m – DB, 24 pcs. – 2"x 6" x 12' – Coco Lumber, Paint Thinner, Pylox Blue 500cc, Latex Gloss Paint White. For the Construction of Talakag Water System, Talakag Bukidnon.

Approved Budget for the Contract : **Six Million Four Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Pesos & Twenty Two Centavos (P 6,428,880.22)**

2. Project Reference no. 300-0637A : **Supply, Delivery & Installation of Computer Hardware**

Description/Location of the Project

1 lot PC Server, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) & Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR), Printers, Laptop Compupter & Computer Chairs. For the Bukidnon Provincial Health System For all Bukidnon Provincial Hospitals except in Manolo Fortich, & Provincial Health Stations & PEEDMO.

Approved Budget for the Contract : **Three Million Three Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Pesos (P 3,368,583.00)**

Project Completion/Duration : Fifteen (15) Calendar Days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Advertisement	October 3-9, 2007	Provincial Website, GEPS, Vicinity of PGSO, PGO, PTO & BAC Office
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 3-10, 2007	PGSO, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
3. Pre-bidding Conference	October 10, 2007, 10:00 A.M.	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City
4. Opening of Bids Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 22, 2007, 10:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M.	BAC Conference Room, Provincial Capitol, Malaybalay City

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable Bid documents fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)/project. For inquiry, Please call Telephone Nos. 088-221-2537 and 088-221-4820.

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved:
(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 9, 2007)

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PROPERTY COMPANY OF FRIENDS, INC.** with office address at **55 Tinio Street, Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila** is applying for registration with the **Board of Investments (BOI)** as **New Developer of Mass Housing Project (Low-cost mass housing units)** at the following Locations and Units:

THE ONE LANCASTER LANE Alapan, Cavite	562 Units
THE PINE CREST Barangay Lantic, Carmona, Cavite	756 Units
THE OAKS AT CARMONA ESTATES Barangay Lantic, Carmona, Cavite	125 Units
THE CEDAR VILLAGE Barangay Lantic, Carmona, Cavite	560 Units
CALIFORNIA WEST HILLS ANNEX Barangay Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite	110 Units
WINDSOR MANSIONS Barangay Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite	177 Units

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 9, 2007)

More Classified Ads

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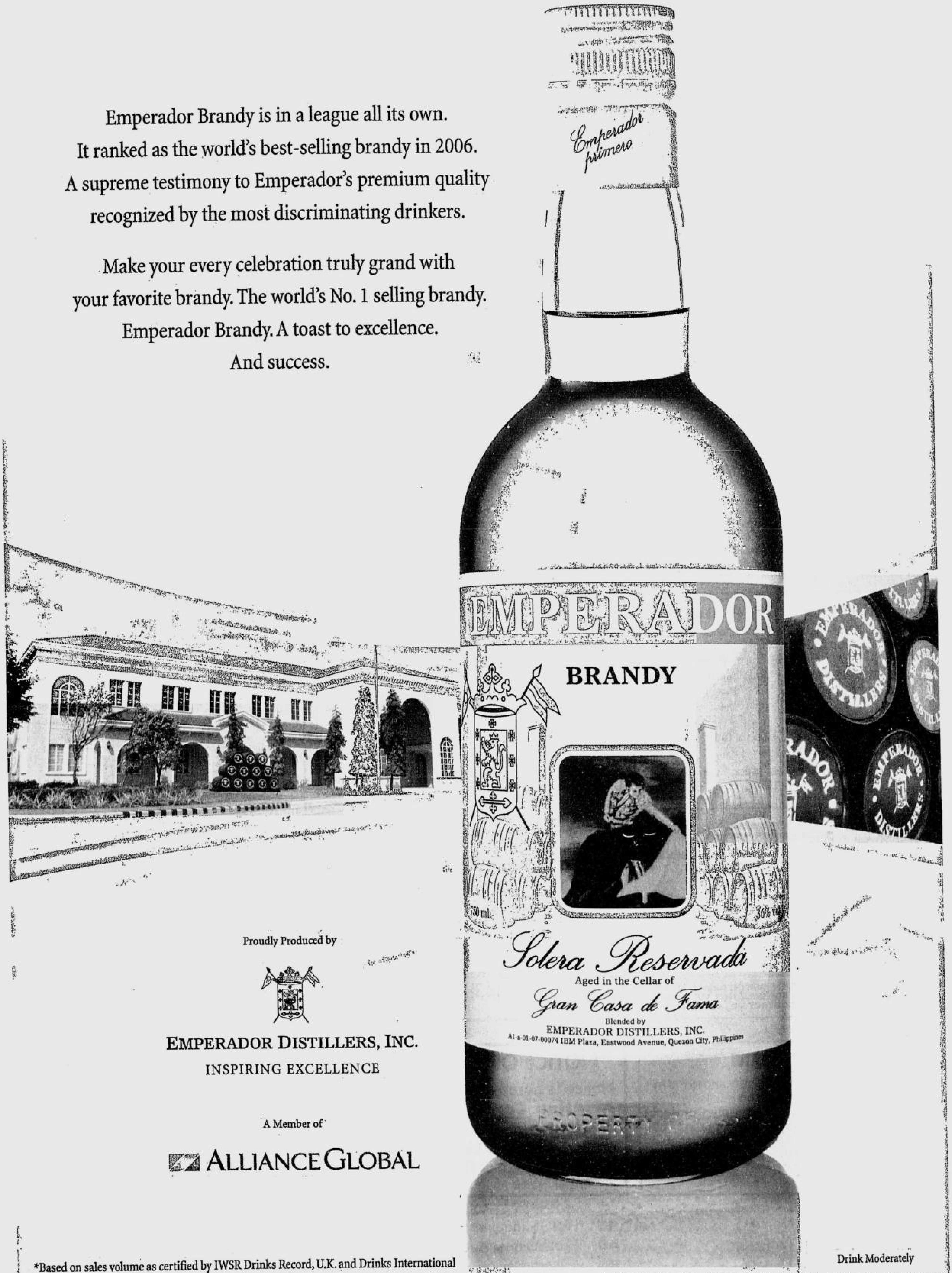
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IN THIS ISSUE
▪ Take the bitter
for the sweets /C4

A new mom's winning ways

Former world top woman tennis player Lindsay Davenport makes an impressive return to the sport in Bali

Text and photos
by Anne A. Jambora

WINNER DAVENPORT: "I really don't have to prove anything."

MOTHERHOOD must have cast a magical spell on this American comeback kid.

Though critics thought it was too soon for the former world tennis No. 1 woman player Lindsay Davenport to return to court just three months after giving birth to first-born Jagger Jonathan Leach, she proved them wrong.

In fact, Davenport herself was surprised when she bagged the Sony Ericsson Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tournament title in Bali, Indonesia.

"It's been overwhelming and exciting. I was physically unsure how I would respond, [although] I don't feel I've come back too soon because I feel really good physically," said the 31-year-old mother, who beat a visibly shocked world No. 3 Jelena Jankovic in the quarterfinals (6-4, 2-6, 6-2) and No. 12 Daniela Hantuchova (6-4, 3-6, 6-2) in the finals.

Held at the Grand Hyatt Resort in Nusa Dua, Bali, the Commonwealth Bank Tennis Classic, part of the Sony Ericsson WTA tour, is reputed to be one of the best in Southeast Asia.

It has lured Grand Slam champions, including Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez.

But Davenport has never left the charming "island of gods" without a title under her belt.

The Slovakian Hantuchova, who has a 0-7 record against Davenport, said she tried to do the right things, like moving the American around to make her play that extra shot. "All credit to the way [Davenport] was playing," Hantuchova said, adding her friend must now be a role model to all women athletes, especially the mothers.

The 6'2½" Davenport, who is married to investment banker and former All-American footballer Jon Leach, said she began playing tennis again two weeks after giving birth.

Concentrating first on simply hitting the ball, she gradually increased her routine each week and until she was able to play hard tennis again in nine weeks.

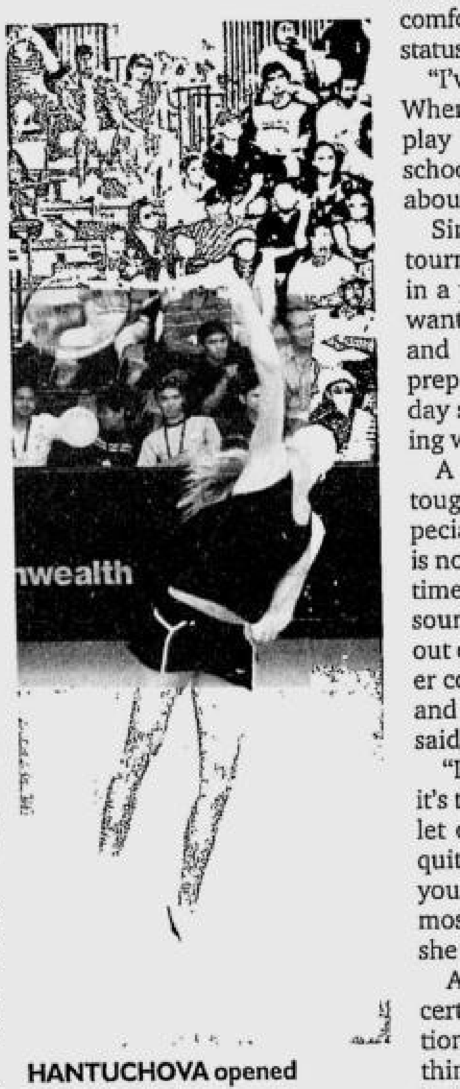
"It's been about regaining my strength back by lifting weights, and also trying to lose weight which is never easy. I'm not so good with diet. Last time I know I was looking for a cookie," she said with a hearty laugh.

The 175-pound Davenport, who began playing tennis at the age of 5, is one of the tallest women in history to play top-level tennis. Her size has resulted in her lack of court speed.

She said she had to work on her footwork and running sprints again to be back in pre-pregnancy shape by October.

Balancing act

"I haven't been the best since my son was born so I need to try a little harder. It's hard to balance training, diet and motherhood. Some things go out of the window. Hopefully I can focus on things I need to do for my career and still maintain a good home and be a good mom," Davenport said.



HANTUCHOVA opened by holding her serve at love.

More than fame and glory, it is the sheer love for tennis that made Davenport return to the sport so soon after giving birth. She said she was never really comfortable with the celebrity status.

"I've always wanted to play. When I was younger I would play a couple of hours after school. It has always been truly about the sport," she said.

Since the Sony Ericsson WTA tournament in Bali was her first in a year, Davenport, who only wanted to try some matches and see what happened, was prepared for a letdown. Each day she found herself still playing was like a dream, she said.

A pro tennis player's life is tough, Davenport said, more especially when a match is lost. It is not easy to be gracious all the time when everyone expects a sound bite as soon as one steps out of the court. Words just never come out quite the right way, and it is hard to be honest, she said.

"In the heat of the moment it's tough to give interviews and let out your true emotions. It's quite devastating, but the more you play the better you get at almost faking [your emotions]," she said.

As for the Bali tournament, "I certainly exceeded my expectations in how I would play but I think a lot of that had to do with being excited to be out there. I never really expected [to win the title]," Davenport said.

With motherhood in full gear, is she still concerned about ranking? "No, not at all. I don't know if I can be competitive again like I need to be. With the exception of the really good ones, many players have to play so many tournaments to be ranked where they are. I just can't do that anymore."

Davenport plans to begin 2008 at the Australian Open and join the Beijing Olympics, then play it by ear from there. As much as she likes to focus on her game once more, she said her son dictates her schedule now.

New priority

"One thing you learn when you have a baby is you can't really plan anymore. I hope to play 10 or 12 tournaments, but travel and everything will depend on my son's schedule," she said.

More than 1,400 players from 75 countries are competing in the Sony Ericsson WTA tour for more than $62 million in prize money. The tour's season-ender championship will be in Madrid, Spain, in November.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

SARA Errani was no match to Davenport in the semis (6-1, 6-3) but the feisty Italian is someone to watch in future tourneys.

THE GRACIOUS Davenport is always ready to meet fans and sign autographs.

DAVENPORT with son Jagger: "Motherhood has made me calmer as a person."

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the signs and symptoms of Breast cancer?

The presence of a lump is usually the most common manifestation of breast cancer. It is usually painless but may sometimes present as a dull pain. Other signs that may be indicative of breast cancer are: change in the size of one breast, changes in the nipple, either it has become inverted (pulled inwards) or change in position or shape. Nipple discharge; more so if it is bloody, is suspicious for cancer. Skin dimpling or puckering, resembling the peel of an orange, is likewise a telltale sign of breast cancer. Sometimes a mass in the armpit is the initial presentation of this disease, which the patient takes for granted. Approximately, 70% of all breast cancers are discovered by the patient herself or her partner. It is usually more common among women aged 50 years old and above but recently, there has been a large increase in the incidence of breast cancer among much younger women. Who are those at risk for developing breast cancer? Women who have a strong family history of breast cancer, those who had their first menstruation at a very early age or a late menopause, those who had a long history of intake of oral contraceptive pills, those who are obese and lead sedentary lifestyles are more prone to develop breast cancer compared to the general population. With the advent of modern technology and novel drugs, cure for breast cancer is possible if the disease is diagnosed early and treated properly. It is recommended that all women practice regular self-breast examination and see a doctor if there are suspicious changes noted.

MEDICard

Dr. Eugenio Regala provides us with this week's discussion on Breast Cancer. Dr. Gene, as he is commonly addressed by his patients, obtained his medical degree at University of Sto. Tomas last 1994. He later took his residency training for his specialization for internal medicine at the same institution and followed by his sub-specialization training for Medical Oncology. He is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology. Dr. Gene spends his free time keeping his body fit by swimming and playing badminton. Dr. Gene also loves to travel. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at Room 108 of UST Hospital every Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10-12nn and at room 1703 of the Medical Arts Tower, Inc. (The Medical City) every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 3 to 6 pm and every Thursday 1-5pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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Your Doctor Knows Best

Dennis M. Tudtud MD, FPCP, FPSMO, FPSO

Question:

I am 45 years old and was diagnosed to have breast cancer. What are my treatment options?

Doctor Says...

Being diagnosed of having breast cancer is not an easy situation. Initially,you may have feelings of anxiety, fear and even anger. It may take time, but acceptance is the best way to deal with your illness. There are several treatment options for breast cancer. In general, the choice of treatment will depend on a number of factors, which include:

- Stage of breast cancer (early, locally- advanced, metastatic)
- Aggressiveness of the tumor (degree of differentiation)
- Menopausal status (pre- or post-menopausal)
- Hormone receptor sensitivity of the cancer (hormone receptor positive or negative)
- Personal preferences (Desire to have children in the future)

Although breast cancer is more common in older women who are post-menopausal (cessation of menstruation), about 25% of those diagnosed are under the age of 50 years. Like you, many of these women are still pre-menopausal (still having their monthly periods).

The aim of breast cancer treatment is to remove the cancer and prevent it from coming back. Treatment options include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy. These may be used alone or in combination to achieve the best result.

For **early stage breast cancer** (tumor confined to the breast), the treatment objective is the removal of the tumor and the involved lymph node (if any) to prevent further spread. This is done through **breast cancer surgery**, which may be a breast conserving procedure such as lumpectomy (removal of the cancer and small amount of surrounding tissue, leaving the rest of the breast intact) or a less conservative procedure like mastectomy (removal of the entire breast).

Apart from surgery alone, patients may also receive additional treatment to remove breast cancer cells that may have been left behind after surgery. Carefully calculated doses of radiation (X-ray) to a localized area of the cancer are given to patients undergoing **radiotherapy**. Common side effects include reddening of the skin, feeling sick and tiredness.

Chemotherapy may also be given. This treatment may go on for three to six months. Side effects are similar to radiotherapy and in pre-menopausal patients, chemotherapy may cause permanent cessation of menstruation that can result to early menopause symptoms such as hot flushes and infertility.

Hormonal therapy is another option. This is usually used in sequence with chemotherapy after surgery. This treatment is suitable for patients with hormone-sensitive breast cancer (ER and /or PR positive assay of cancer specimen). The principle of treatment is to deprive the tumor of estrogen (female sex hormone) that induces growth. In pre-menopausal women, the production of estrogen can be stopped by chemotherapy, removal of the ovaries by surgery, or by inhibiting the pituitary stimulation of estrogen production by monthly or three-monthly injections. Another way is to use an oral medication or a tablet to prevent estrogen from getting in contact with the tumor, thus inhibiting its growth. Side effects include early menopause symptoms like hot flushes and loss of libido. There are benefits and drawbacks for each kind of treatment and you should discuss these issues with your doctor.

The treatment options for locally advanced breast cancer will be discussed in the next column.

It is best to explore your options with your surgeon, medical oncologist and radiation oncologist as a team upon your diagnosis, for indeed, no one doctor knows all the answers.

Dr. Tudtud is an Internist/Medical Oncologist. He is an active consultant and holds clinics at the Cebu Cancer Institute, Perpetual Succour Hospital, and Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City. Dr. Tudtud is also a Clinical Professor at the JP Rizal-Xavier University College of Medicine.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (Phils.), Inc.
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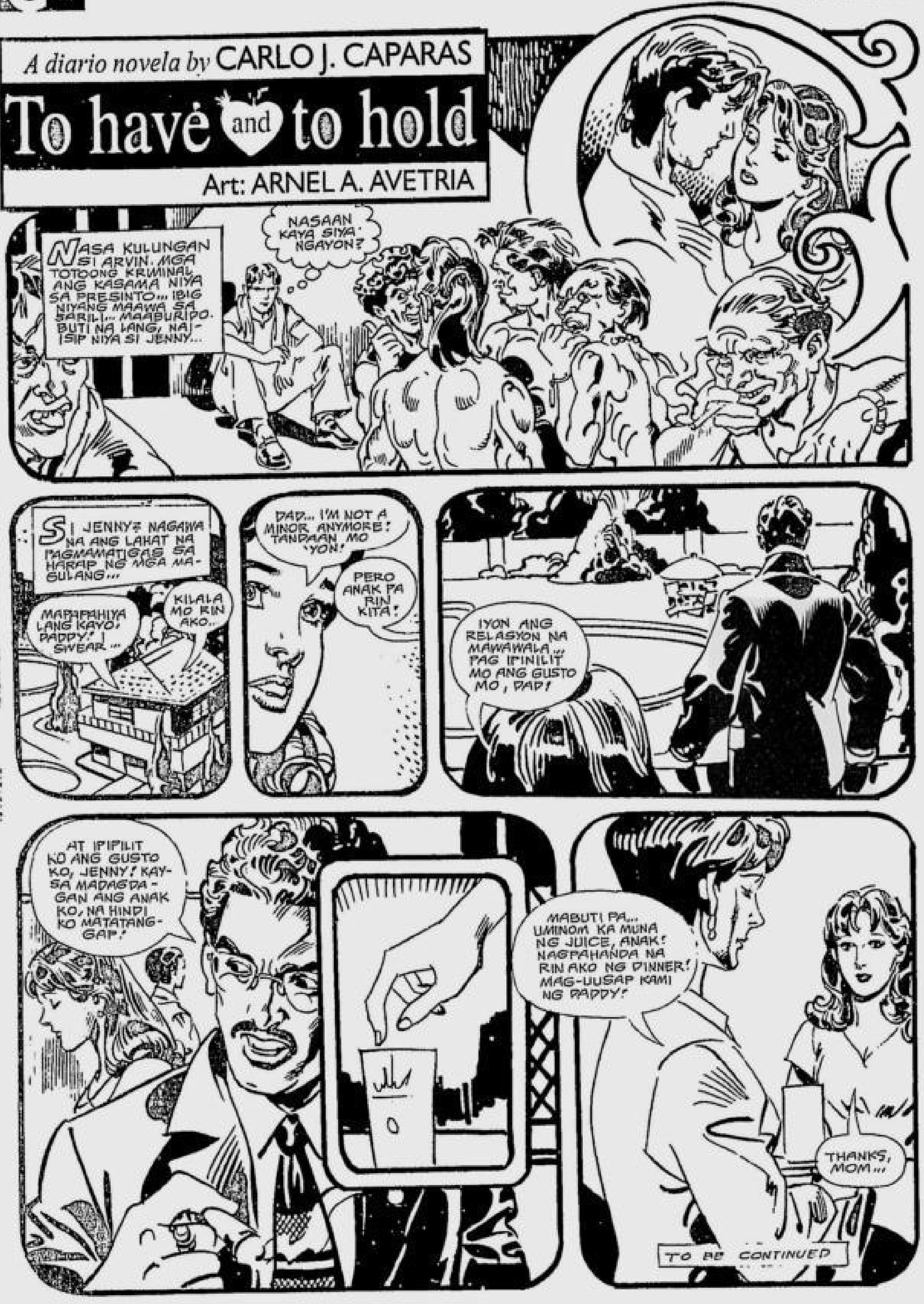
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

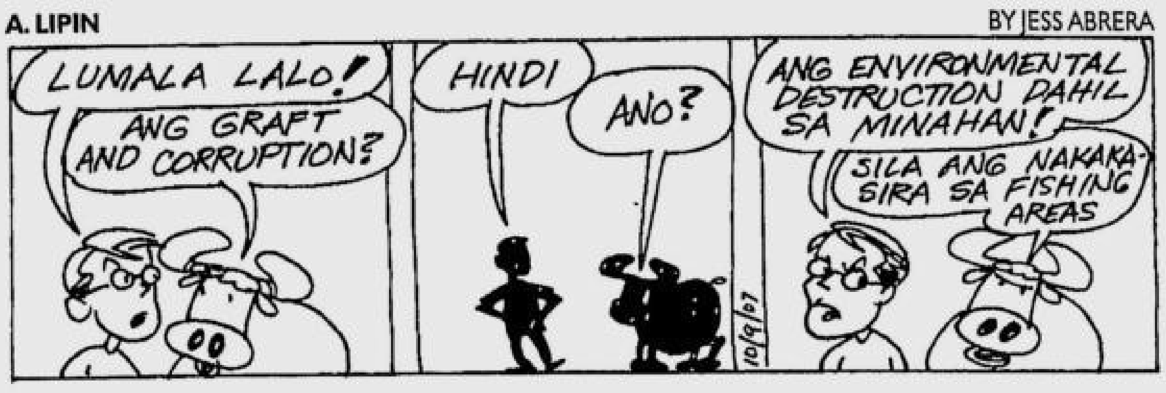
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NASA KULUNGAN SI ARVIN. MGA TOTOONG KRIMINAL ANG KASAMA NIYA SA PRESINTO... IBIG NIYANG MAAWA SA SARILI... MAABURIDO. BUTI NA LANG, NAISIP NIYA SI JENNY...
NASAAN KAYA SIYA NGAYON?
SI JENNY? NAGAWA NA ANG LAHAT NA PAGMAMATIGAS SA HARAP NG MGA MAGULANG...
MAPAPAHIYA LANG KAYO, DADDY! I SWEAR...
KILALA MO RIN AKO...
DAD... I'M NOT A MINOR ANYMORE! TANDAAN MO 'YON!
PERO ANAK PA RIN KITA!
IYON ANG RELASYON NA MAWAWALA... PAG IPINILIT MO ANG GUSTO MO, DAD!
AT IPIPILIT KO ANG GUSTO KO, JENNY! KAYSA MADAGDAGAN ANG ANAK KO, NA HINDI KO MATATANGGAP!
MABUTI PA... UMINOM KA MUNA NG JUICE, ANAK! NAGPAHANDA NA RIN AKO NG DINNER! MAG-UUSAP KAMI NG DADDY!
THANKS, MOM...
TO BE CONTINUED

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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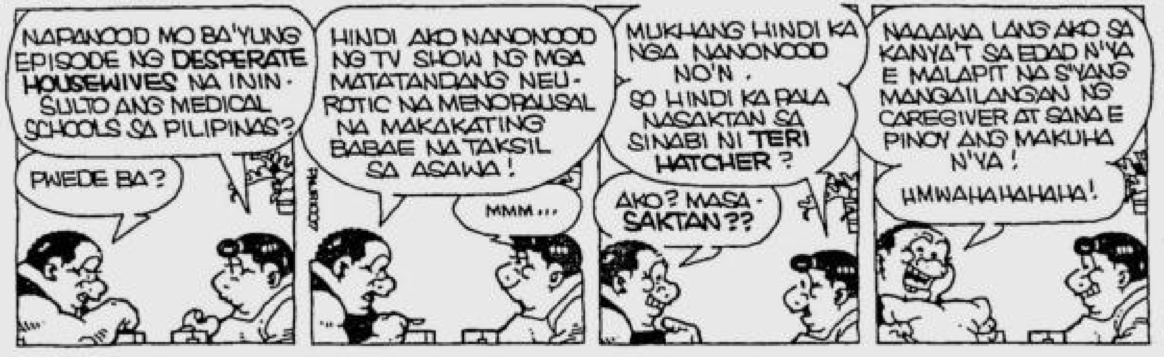
ANG GRAFT AND CORRUPTION?
HINDI
ANO?
10/9/07
ANG ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION DAHIL SA MINAHAN!
SILA ANG NAKAKASIRA SA FISHING AREAS

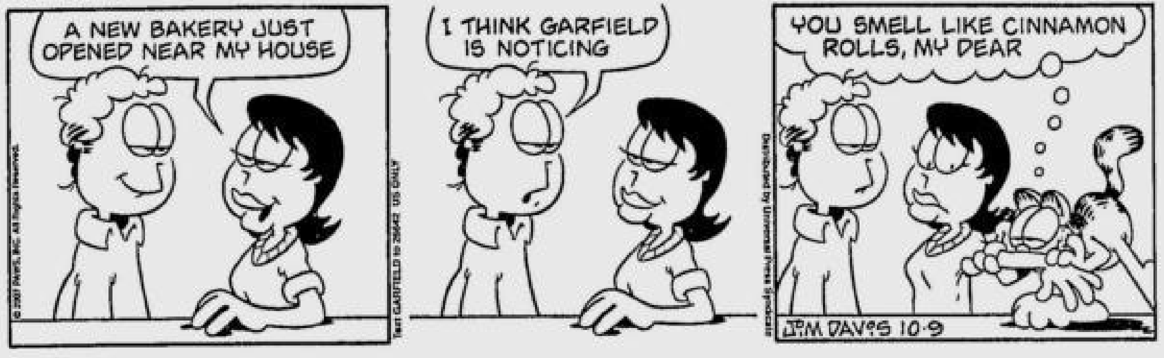
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANOOD MO BA'YUNG EPISODE NG DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES NA ININSULTO ANG MEDICAL SCHOOLS SA PILIPINAS?
PWEDE BA?
HINDI AKO NANONOOD NG TV SHOW NG MGA MATATANDANG NEUROTIC NA MENOPAUSAL NA MAKAKATING BABAE NA TAKSIL SA ASAWA!
MMM...
MUKHANG HINDI KA NGA NANONOOD NO'N.
SO HINDI KA PALA NASAKTAN SA SINABI NI TERI HATCHER?
AKO? MASASAKTAN??
NAAAWA LANG AKO SA KANYA'T SA EDAD N'YA E MALAPIT NA S'YANG MANGAILANGAN NG CAREGIVER AT SANA E PINOY ANG MAKUHA N'YA!
HMWAHAHAHAHA!

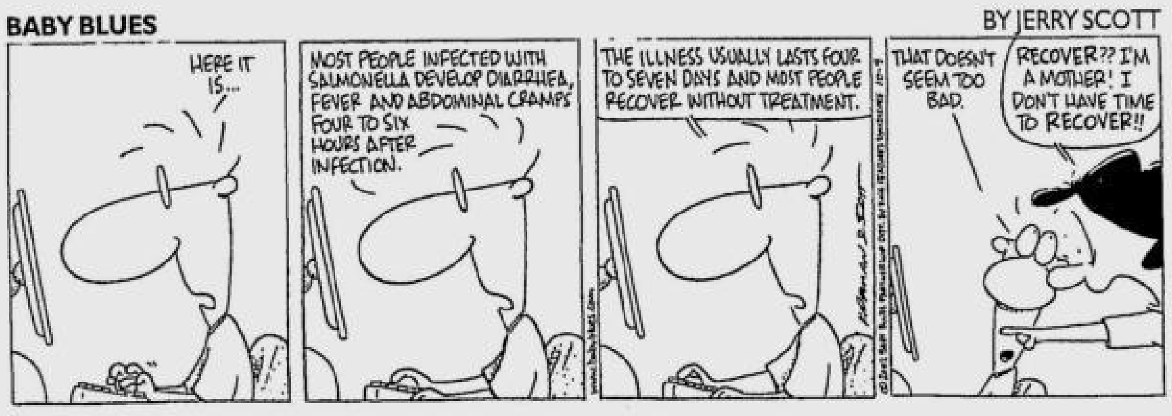
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


A NEW BAKERY JUST OPENED NEAR MY HOUSE
I THINK GARFIELD IS NOTICING
YOU SMELL LIKE CINNAMON ROLLS, MY DEAR
JIM DAVIS 10-9

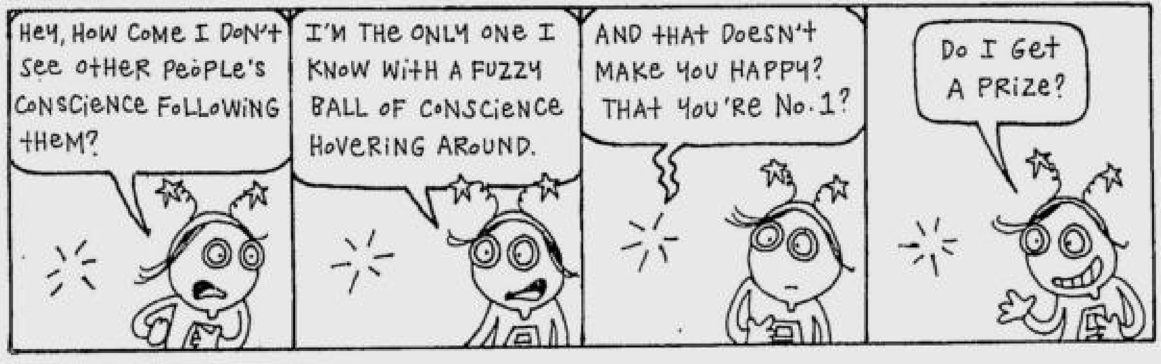
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE IT IS...
MOST PEOPLE INFECTED WITH SALMONELLA DEVELOP DIARRHEA, FEVER AND ABDOMINAL CRAMPS FOUR TO SIX HOURS AFTER INFECTION.
THE ILLNESS USUALLY LASTS FOUR TO SEVEN DAYS AND MOST PEOPLE RECOVER WITHOUT TREATMENT.
THAT DOESN'T SEEM TOO BAD.
RECOVER?? I'M A MOTHER! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO RECOVER!!

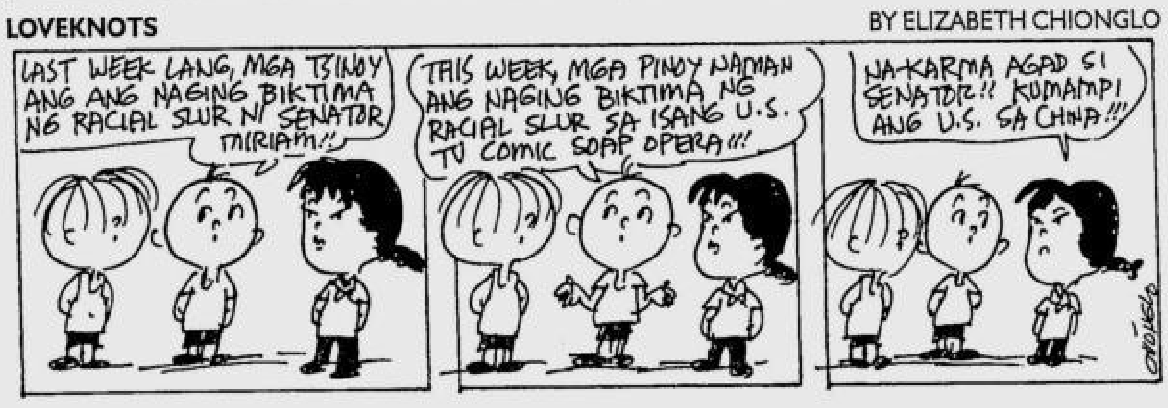
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, How Come I Don't see other People's Conscience Following them?
I'M The ONLY one I Know With A Fuzzy BALL of Conscience Hovering Around.
AND that Doesn't Make You Happy? That You're No. 1?
Do I Get A Prize?

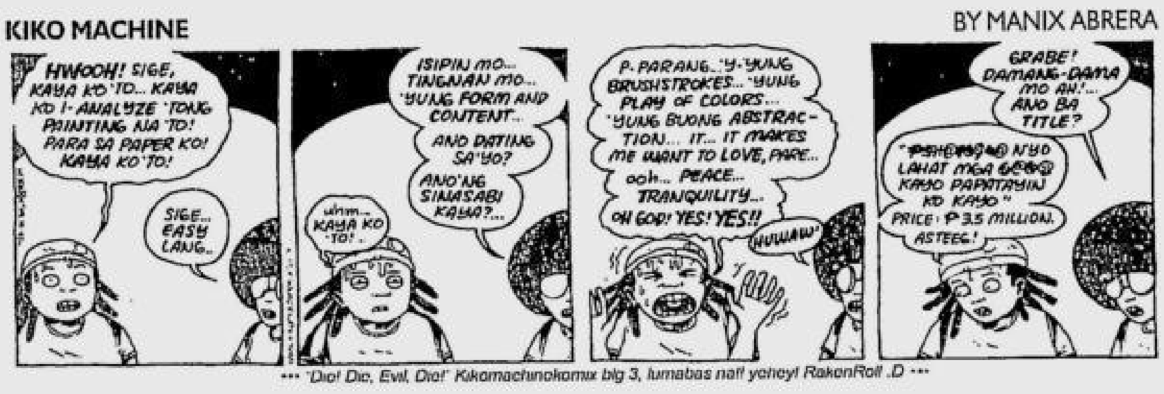
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


LAST WEEK LANG, MGA TSINOY ANG ANG NAGING BIKTIMA NG RACIAL SLUR NI SENATOR MIRIAM!!
THIS WEEK, MGA PINOY NAMAN ANG NAGING BIKTIMA NG RACIAL SLUR SA ISANG U.S. TV COMIC SOAP OPERA!!!
NA-KARMA AGAD SI SENATOR!! KUMAMPI ANG U.S. SA CHINA!!!

KIKO MACHINE

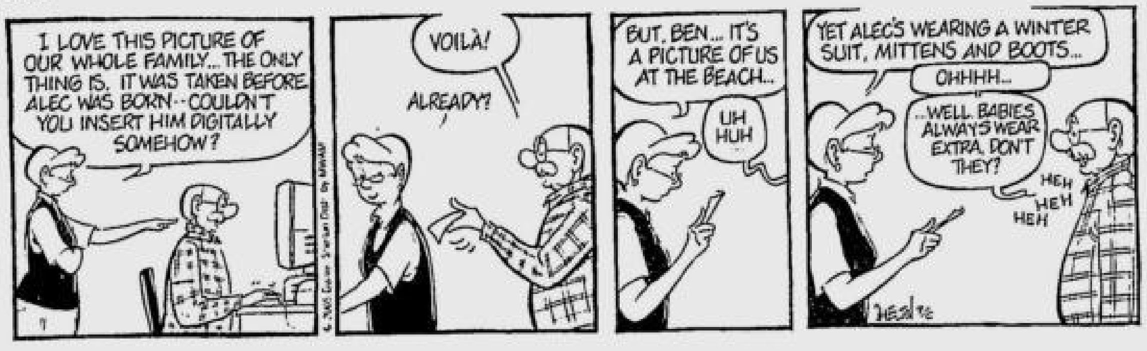
BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! SIGE, KAYA KO 'TO... KAYA KO I-ANALYZE 'TONG PAINTING NA 'TO! PARA SA PAPER KO! KAYA KO 'TO!
SIGE... EASY LANG...
ISIPIN MO... TINGNAN MO... 'YUNG FORM AND CONTENT...
ANO DATING SA'YO?
ANO'NG SINASABI KAYA?...
uhm... KAYA KO 'TO!
P-PARANG... 'Y-'YUNG BRUSHSTROKES... 'YUNG PLAY OF COLORS... 'YUNG BUONG ABSTRACTION... IT... IT MAKES ME WANT TO LOVE, PARE... ooh... PEACE... TRANQUILITY... OH GOD! YES! YES!!
HUWAW!
GRABE! DAMANG-DAMA MO AH!... ANO BA TITLE?
"[illegible] N'YO LAHAT MGA [illegible] KAYO PAPATAYIN KO KAYO" PRICE: P 3.5 MILLION. ASTEEG!

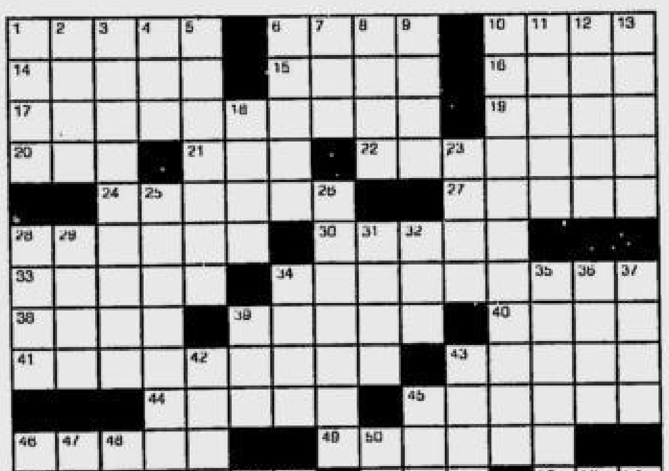
*** 'Dio! Dic, Evil, Dio!' Kikomachinokomix blg 3, lumabas na!! yehey! RakenRoll .D ***

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I LOVE THIS PICTURE OF OUR WHOLE FAMILY... THE ONLY THING IS, IT WAS TAKEN BEFORE ALEC WAS BORN -- COULDN'T YOU INSERT HIM DIGITALLY SOMEHOW?
VOILÀ!
ALREADY?
BUT, BEN... IT'S A PICTURE OF US AT THE BEACH...
UH HUH
YET ALEC'S WEARING A WINTER SUIT, MITTENS AND BOOTS...
OHHHH...
...WELL, BABIES ALWAYS WEAR EXTRA, DON'T THEY?
HEH HEH HEH

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
10/9/07

ACROSS
1 Wanderer
6 Network
10 Lose color
14 Noisy
15 Sub __ (secretly)
16 One-name model
17 Flush
19 Peddle
20 Garland of orchids
21 Morning droplets
22 Basic nature
24 Human herbivores
27 Washed (down)
28 Grayish-yellow
30 Head honcho
33 Tiniest quantities
34 Quack
38 Blueprint detail
39 Combines
40 "The Thief of Bagdad" co-star
41 Chuck Yeager, e.g.
43 Tarnish
44 Within the law
45 Heavy nails
46 Romps
49 Pretentious people
51 Exclude
54 Capacious coffeepot
55 Madrid Mrs.
58 Airing
59 Flush
62 Pointed arch
63 Sailor's drink
64 Maine college town
65 Plant with fronds
66 Dueling sword
67 Corral again

DOWN
1 Do perfectly
2 Caen's river
3 Spurs into action
4 Contented sigh
5 Deepens a waterway
6 Matured
7 Cubs great Santo
8 Words of comprehension
9 Fortnight components
10 Flush
11 Words of approval
12 Twyla Tharp forte
13 Wrapped up
18 Intend
23 Satirist Silverstein
25 Flush
26 Educates
28 Clenched hand
29 Easy gait
31 Sentry's command
32 Tax grp.
34 Fountain choice
35 Discusses work
36 Competent
37 Van __, CA
39 Slovenly person
42 Veracruz change
43 Backer
45 Fungus structures
46 Confirmation
47 Fencing maneuver
48 Modify
50 Prod lightly
52 Prevail upon
53 MD athlete
56 Old Norse character
57 "__ Flux"
60 Female rabbit
61 Bygone Eur. realm

Monday's Puzzle Solved

D	E	P	P	■	H	A	I	F	A	■	A	E	R	O
I	C	E	E	■	E	L	T	O	N	■	S	P	E	W
B	R	E	T	■	L	A	I	R	D	■	S	I	N	E
S	U	N	R	I	S	E	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S
■	■	■	I	C	I	■	■	S	E	I	S	■	■	■
M	S	S	■	U	N	D	O	■	A	R	T	F	U	L
A	C	T	A	■	K	I	T	E	■	E	A	R	L	E
M	O	O	N	L	I	G	H	T	S	O	N	A	T	A
E	R	I	C	A	■	S	E	T	A	■	T	U	R	N
T	E	C	H	I	E	■	R	A	R	E	■	D	A	S
■	■	■	O	R	L	E	■	■	A	R	R	■	■	■
S	T	A	R	S	A	N	D	S	T	R	I	P	E	S
P	A	L	M	■	P	A	O	L	O	■	D	A	L	E
E	R	L	E	■	S	C	R	A	G	■	G	A	M	E
C	A	A	N	■	E	T	Y	M	A	■	E	R	O	S

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10/8/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have many talents in many areas, which can make it difficult for you to make a career choice. You're extremely observant about both human psychology and social conditions in the world. You're constantly active; you inspire other people. You are very kind and encouraging to others. Your year ahead is the beginning of a fresh, new cycle in your life.

Birthdate of: Scott Bakula, actor; John Lennon, musician; Guillermo del Toro, film director

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected opportunities to travel or opportunities to take a course, get training or learn something new are likely today. Your window of opportunity is brief, so act quickly!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): All kinds of gifts and goodies could fall in your lap today. Somehow you stand to benefit from the wealth and resources of others (but in a surprising way).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Relationships with partners and close friends are unpredictable and adventurous today. You almost don't know if you're coming or going. Nevertheless, it's fun!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your daily work schedule definitely will be interrupted today. It might be for an exciting reason connected with groups or travel. Or it could be due to computer crashes and power failures. (Ouch.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): New love could come your way today. Unexpected invitations to party or have fun also might arise. Whatever happens, act quickly, because this opportunity will be brief.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Surprising real estate deals might take place today. Or perhaps relatives and company could drop by? Something unexpected will occur in your domestic world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day. However, on the whole, you feel upbeat, positive and enthusiastic. Just stay alert at all times, but do enjoy yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Many of you will make a sudden profit today. This is a great day to start a new job or boost your income in some way. If you're shopping, you will be extravagant!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel adventurous and up for anything. You're eager for change and are interested in new, different, intriguing situations. Something lucky might happen to you today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might have a sudden, deep understanding of something. It's as if the cobwebs are suddenly swept away from your mind. You have clarity, and you see how things really work!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Unexpected invitations to group events are likely today. Some group events or social occasions will spontaneously occur, catching you off-guard.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might do something to boost your good name in your social circle today. Bosses, parents and VIPs are impressed with you. Work-related travel is likely. Enjoy your day!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

	4	3						
		6			3			4
				9	2		6	3
	1	4	9		8			
		7				3		
			7		6	5	8	
3	2		1	7				
1			6			2		
						1	7	

Difficulty Level ★★
10/09

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

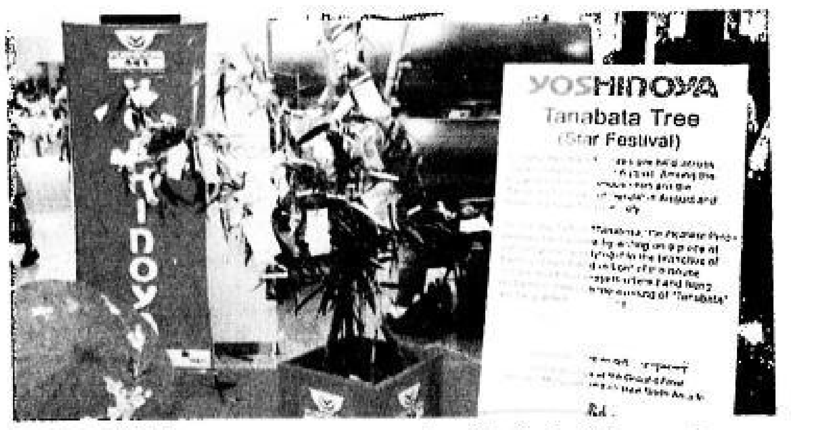
Answer to previous puzzle

9	4	8	3	5	7	1	2	6
2	6	5	9	1	4	3	8	7
1	7	3	8	6	2	4	5	9
3	2	4	1	7	5	9	6	8
5	9	6	2	3	8	7	4	1
8	1	7	6	4	9	2	3	5
4	5	9	7	2	6	8	1	3
6	8	1	4	9	3	5	7	2
7	3	2	5	8	1	6	9	4

Difficulty Level ★
10/08

YOSHINOYA Century Pacific vice chair Ricardo Po Jr.; business unit head Leo Po and chair Ricardo Po Sr.; and SM Mall of Asia manager Perkin So at the ceremonial ribbon-snipping opening of the new branch

SM MALL of Asia's Steven Tan



FOLLOWING Japanese custom, people write their wishes on pieces of paper and hang them on Yoshinoya's Tanabata tree in Mall of Asia's entrances.

YOSHINOYA operations chief Logie Logarta with the staff of the newly opened Yoshinoya-Mall of Asia

MEMBERS of the Ongaku Society and Juujiro J-Culture Organization

NIHONGO Center Foundation's Dr. Melinda Doña, Beatriz Mojica, Marites Doña, Gennie Ferma and Yoshinoya's Tato Borromeo

A Japanese celebration

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

GREAT NEWS FOR all of us die-hard followers of the popular Yoshinoya.

The Japanese fastfood chain opened its sixth branch at the SM Mall of Asia with a Japanese-theme celebration, *palanggas,* featuring all the things people love about Japan. Yoshinoya is known for its mouth-watering *gyudon* USDA choice beef and chicken simmered with onions in a special blend of herbs and spices, then heaped on steaming fluffy rice.

Moi had to hitch a ride to get to the mall, but *moi* arrived in time to listen to that young, brilliant new guard of the Po *famille,* **Leo Po,** Yoshinoya's business unit head, say, "We're very pleased because the opening of our new branch coincided with the Mall of Asia's 'Nihon Wo Tanoshimou' (Let's Enjoy Japan) celebration. As always, Japanese food lovers can expect the same goodness and quality they've enjoyed from Yoshinoya in this new restaurant."

Yoshinoya's Century Pacific hotshot executives led by chair **Ricardo Po Sr.**, vice chair **Ricardo Po Jr.** and **Leo,** *natch,* were all present and accounted for, *palanggas.*

Mall manager **Perkin So,** assistant mall manager **Shirley Abugan,** and group brand manager **Sean Reyes** were busy as bees entertaining here, there and everywhere.

Aside from the Mall of Asia, you will find Yoshinoya at Park Square 1 in Ayala Center; SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, Robinsons Galleria and Greenhills Shopping Center.

3-in-1 coffee

It was another real fun launch, so many fun personas got together to enjoy the one thing they had in common, *palanggas*—drinking coffee.

Naturellement, the biggest star of the event was Nescafé Classic 3-in-1, "the perfect companion." *Moi* asked why the perfect companion? The answer was "because with it, you can enjoy a good cup of coffee anytime, anywhere."

Explained brilliant **Chris Cahilig,** an avid coffee drinker who needs a caffeine fix throughout the day, dahlings, "Actually, we've noticed not only adults drink Nescafé 3-in-1. [Despite] the barrage of other instant-coffee brands... and the mushrooming of coffee houses in every corner of the metro, many people—office workers, students, even housewives and executives—[keep] a stock of Nescafé 3-in-1 sachets. It has a flavorful taste and rich aroma, unlike other brands whose coffee tastes artificially enhanced."

As one of the press persona present told *moi,* "It's real coffee."

Check it out, *palanggas.* It's supposed to be "quick and fuss-free."

Christmas bazaar

It is October already, only two months to go before Christmas, *palanggas,* and Christmas bazaars are mushrooming.

Getting the holiday events rolling are the Catholic Women's Club with its annual Casa y Jardin bazaar to be held at the ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Oct. 14 and 21. Proceeds of these bazaars go to CWC's over 100 charities, *palanggas.*

The bazaar will feature, among others, the limited-edition Mother & Child porcelain plate. The 22nd in the series is done by renowned artist **Tam Austria,** no less, dahlings.

Another attraction is the sale of maid's uniforms sewn by women who trained through CWC's initiative. The club built a social hall and bought sewing machines to provide employment to housewives at the Gawad Kalinga community in *Manille.*

Under the leadership of president **Tessie Rodrigo, Nikki Valerio** is mega chair of the bazaar. Co-chairs are **Marilen Elizalde** and **Ane Preysler.**

CWC was able to build three pavilions at the Elsie Gaches Village for the mentally handicapped from various fund-raising activities.

Ultra hot party

It was the hottest happening of the week, dahlings. One of today's most dynamic international brands of designer watches unveiled **Tim Yap's** o.d.m. Limited-Edition Watch II at the Rockwell Tent.

By the time **Anton San Diego** and *moi* dashed in, the Rock tent was packed with our town's hottest trend-setters, some 205 of the most beautiful faces in the party scene.

We were welcomed by hotshot executives of L Timestudio, exclusive distributor of o.d.m. in the Philippines—**Ivan Yao,** president; managing director **Emerson Yao** and **Lorenz Manalang,** marketing manager.

Frank Lam, o.d.m. head of international sales and marketing, jetted in from Hong Kong to be at this fab event, *palanggas.*

"This is an absolute celebration of Pinoy pride," a visibly pleased Lam said. "This watch embodies the design ideals of o.d.m., original, dynamic and minimalist!"

While we circulated and sipped our cocktails, tall, gorgeous models dressed in black and white moved around showing off the limited-edition o.d.m. watch.

True to the event's "A Proud Pinoy 24/7" theme, rapper **Francis M.** belted out his '90s Tagalog rap song "Mga Kababayan."

Proudly wearing their limited-edition o.d.m. watches while partying hard were television and fashion personalities **Phoemela Barranda, Issa Litton, Kat Alano,** fashionable **Celine Lopez,** super adorable twosome **Joey Mead** and **Ian King, Brent Javier;** beautiful lovers stylish **Divine Lee** and handsome **Adriano Cartullanes,** and the one-of-a-kind **Vicky Belo** of the popular Belo Medical Group with her favorite man, Dr. **Hayden Kho;** plus tons of others too gorgeous and trendy to mention, *palanggas.*

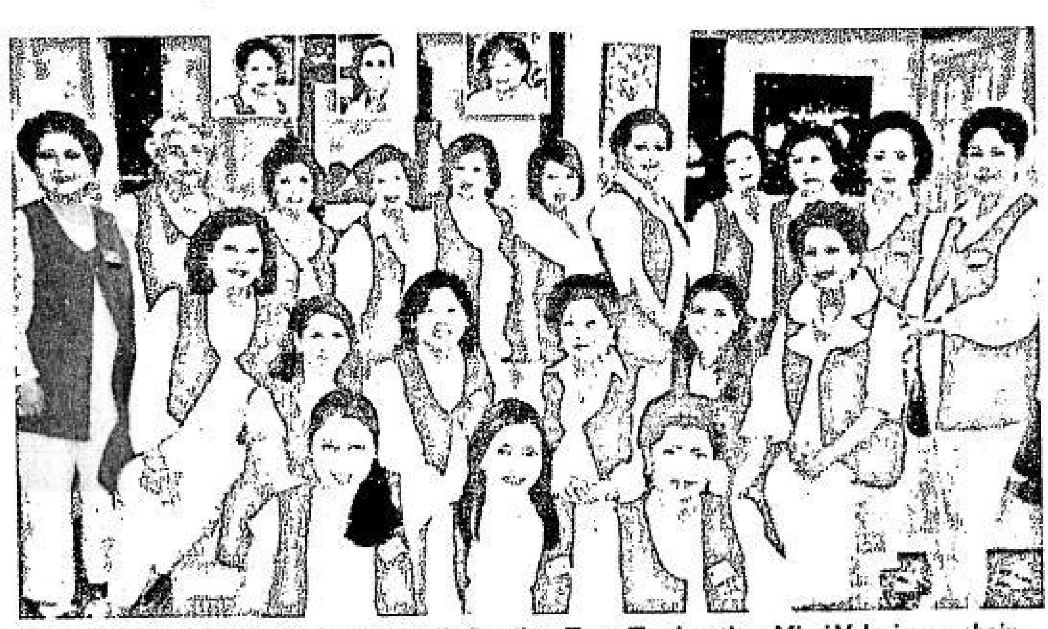
This eye-catching must-have, the iconic watch, comes in black with its signature Philippine map in gold and the words "Super Pilipinas" embossed on the bracelet.

It also has the patriotic scrolling LCD display "I'm Super Proud to be Pinoy."

PAROKYA ni Edgar members get their coffee fix for the day.

CEBU winner Lazy Susan

FRANCIS Guevarra of EMI Records and Eileen Bancoro of Nestlé Philippines



(**FROM** foreground) Carmen Roxas, Milo Bondoc, Terry Tambunting; Mimi Valerio, co-chair Ane Preysler, chair Nikki Valerio, CWC president Tessie Rodrigo, co-chair Marilen Elizalde, Nene Leonor; Letty Hahn, Carmen Mantecon, Rose Marie Lazaro, Baby Gloria, Linda Pastoral, Tess Castro, Myrna Borromeo, Charrie Lim, Shirley Uy, Nonie Basilio and Chloe Periquet; (inset) Lulu Castañeda, Sofia Elizalde and Karen Macasaet

CELINE Lopez

IZA Calzado

XENG Zulueta

PRETTY Kat Alano

DINGDONG Dantes and Karylle

DIETHER Ocampo

MODELS proudly wear the Tim Yap o.d.m. limited-edition watch II.

VICKY Belo and Hayden Kho

MOI and L Timestudio's president Ivan Yao

BUBBLES Paraiso and Phoemela Barranda

KEITH Martin and Diana Dayao

L TIMESTUDIO executives, managing director Emerson Yao, head of international sales and marketing Frank Lam (second from right) and Ivan Yao (right), with rapper Francis Magalona and Tim Yap

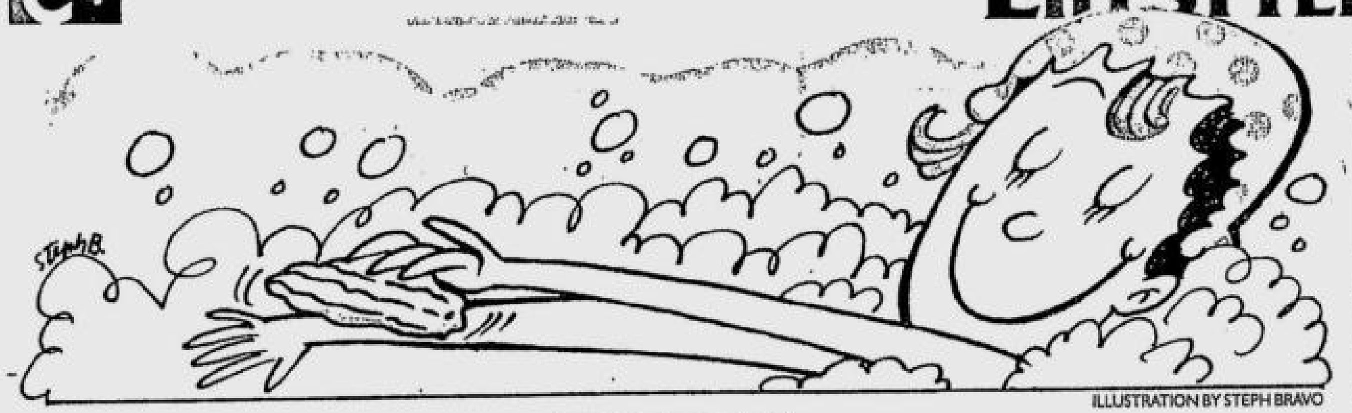


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Q & A on the bitter, the sweet and the smooth

OF COURSE THE TRUTH CAN SET you free. But more than that, it can also make you healthier and sexier.

Most often asked questions by men and women on the street take center stage now. So, maybe the answer to that question that has been nagging you for years is here.

Q: Is virgin coconut oil (VCO) fattening? If so, will it clog my arteries?

Perhaps you have tried nearly every possible diet. If none has worked for you, maybe it is time you gave the humble coconut a chance.

In her book "The Coconut Diet," Cherie Calbom proclaims the wonders of a coconut diet that largely uses coconut oil for cooking and preparing meals.

My own personal experience involved drinking up to four tablespoons of VCO on an empty stomach before breakfast, combined with a low carbohydrate diet.

Over the next 3-6 months, it may prove to be the best weight loss food regimen you can adopt. Add an active fitness lifestyle (exercise three times a week) and you will never gain a pound or add inches to your waistline.

Dr. Vermen Verallo, noted dermatologist who was written extensively on VCO, is a great admirer of this wondrous oil as skin moisturizer when used in moderate amounts.

Dr. Conrado Dayrit, considered the Father of VCO for championing and promoting its health benefits, swears by its efficacy. "It doesn't clog the arteries. Instead, VCO is absorbed by the body within 20 minutes and converted into energy almost instantly. In short, it does not turn into fat because it is made up of MCTs—medium chain triglycerides."

To do

Use coconut oil for cooking. It is the healthy choice and its smoking point is exceptional, allowing it to reach high temperature levels in cooking without turning toxic. It has a higher heat tolerance level than olive oil.

Q: How does VCO help burn fat?

It is called thermogenesis, the rate at which the human body burns fuel for energy. MCTs have a unique ability to increase the rate at which your own body burns fat for fuel. Therefore, it revs up the engine within you—your metabolism.

A tip

Want to detoxify and lose weight? Try eating coconuts for a day. Have salads using VCO and lemon. If you do this once a week for one month you will notice weight loss and a brighter complexion.

Q: Is it true the more bitter the food, the healthier?

In a sense, yes. In earlier medical practice, "bitters" were given to patients to increase appetite and stimulate circulation. Today, this belief holds true.

The Philippines abounds in *ampalaya* (bitter gourd), hailed as a diabetic's natural medicine. The bitter taste of this fruit/vegetable/herb comes from momordicin. Using the dried leaves, fruits and seeds of *ampalaya* can help prevent or control types 1 and 2 diabetes when combined with a healthy lifestyle.

To lower blood sugar safely, you may consider adding *ampalaya* to your diet. Eating it fresh may also give you its many benefits such as stimulation of insulin release, renewal of cells, increased glucose uptake (the absorption of substance) in muscles, increased bowel movement, improvement of psoriasis/infertility and stronger resistance to infection.

Note: Consult you doctor if you are pregnant or have liver disease or are hypersensitive to cantaloupe/melon. Since preventive care is what we should adopt, if you have a history of diabetes in the family, consider making ampalaya a regular supplement.

Those who have the following symptoms should take a closer look at their health condition: frequent thirst and urination, sugar cravings, mood swings, constipation, fatigue.

A good friend, Louie Chincuanco, who was 35 pounds overweight, feverishly researched on the best way to lose weight while addressing his body aches/pains/fatigue.

His own miracle juice follows:

Wonder Juice

½ ampalaya, green bell pepper, cucumber

1-3 stalks celery

1 small tooth garlic

½ red apple

Blender all (remove skins of apple, pepper and cucumber).

Drink on an empty stomach (preferably twice a day). If you have a health challenge, take three times daily.

Suggestion: Complement this regimen with two cups of apple cider vinegar tea (2 teaspoons vinegar and a cup of warm water) twice daily to speed up your cleansing regimen.

Louie has not gotten sick for 11 years now and has lost his excess weight. For free handouts call 7111156 to 58 or visit www.wellnesscare.bravehost.com

Q: What is an effective homemade body scrub for glowing skin?

Cory's Concoction

½ ampalaya (de-seeded)—place in blender till smooth

3 tbsp sugar, ½ coconut water, ½ lemon (juiced), 2 tbsp VCO

Mix all ingredients. Scrub your body from the neck down. Shower immediately. Rub VCO after shower.

Affirming joy

Repeat as often as you can today:

"Heaven's door opens. And God laughs with me."

Love and light!

"Forever Young," the Filipino version, is available at National Bookstore/Powerbooks. Christmas orders accepted.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Hypnosis and breast enlargement

THE AVERAGE FILIPINO'S EXPOSURE to hypnosis is with a stage magician or entertainer who hypnotizes a subject, usually a woman, by dangling a pendulum in front of her, and making her body stiff or rigid.

While in that rigid state, the woman is carried by two assistants who carefully lay her head on one chair and her feet on another chair.

The sleeping woman's body stays rigid and does not fall. Then the magician walks on top of her stomach without her exhibiting any discomfort and pain.

Afterwards he wakes her up and she does not remember anything that transpired. She is completely unhurt.

In another common demonstration, a hypnotist makes a subject forget a certain number and then makes the subject count while he is awake.

The subject is puzzled why he cannot remember or say that particular number the hypnotist told him to forget. When the suggestion is removed, the subject is then able to recall the number.

Medical tool

Much less commonly known, however, is the use of hypnosis in medicine. In some countries abroad, dental extraction or even surgical operation has been performed while the patient is under hypnosis. No anesthetic is used. Yet the patient feels no pain at all.

Another branch of this practice is called Forensic Hypnosis. This is used in crime detection and resolution. A victim or a witness to a crime is hypnotized to recall a detail that he/she does not remember in the waking state.

Under hypnosis, the forgotten detail is recalled completely and the crime is solved.

Hypnosis has also been successfully used to heal warts and an ugly and incurable skin disease called "fish skin disease."

Here is a report on how a British doctor cured a 16-year-old boy's congenital and incurable fish skin disease through hypnosis.

"In the boy's first session under hypnosis, the doctor, A.C. Mason, told him to focus on his left arm and to see the skin becoming normal. In five days the hardened layer of skin on the left arm softened and fell off.

"During succeeding sessions the improvements were dramatic and rapid. Both arms cleared, 90 percent of the skin on the boy's back cleared, 50 to 70 percent of the skin on his buttocks, thighs and legs cleared.

"Then there were no further changes, despite repeated sessions of hypnosis. For whatever reason, the treatment had run its course."

Mason's unbelievable results were published in the British Medical Journal and attracted a lot of attention. Three doctors investigated and confirmed Mason's reported results.

Not unique

Theodore Barber was a psychologist who investigated the phenomenon of hypnosis for many years. He considered hypnosis as simply a "heightened state of suggestibility" and not a unique state of consciousness as proposed by other researchers.

By suggestion, Barber meant, "a state in which individuals give full credence to statements they hear about themselves and their capacities."

According to Barber, there are some people who do not need an actual past experience "to evoke precise physical changes in their bodies." It is enough that they have good imagination and believe the hypnotist's suggestions.

For example, he showed that a hypnotized subject could reduce the blood flow after tooth extraction by 65 percent less compared to non-hypnotized patients.

So what else can hypnosis do? Many Filipino women will like the answer to this: It can enlarge breasts of women! That is right.

Barber reported that a total of 70 women, using a hypnotic suggestion, "increased their breast sizes an average of 1¼ inches in 12 weeks."

How did they do it?

"The women were told to imagine warm water flowing over their breasts or warm towels covering them or the sun or a heat lamp shining on them, and to imagine that their breasts are becoming warm, tingling, pulsating and that they are growing. They were instructed to give themselves these suggestions during sessions of self-hypnosis at home."

And their breasts enlarged.

However, not all suggestions succeed in inducing physical changes in the body. The subjects must firmly believe in the suggestions made to make them work and they must be able to slow down their brain waves to the alpha level, a meditative and relaxed state.

In my inner mind development classes, I suggest that visualization for health purposes be done for at least 15 minutes, three times a day for best results.

I have not yet tried using hypnosis, suggestion, or visualization on my female students for the purpose of breast enlargement, but maybe this is one application worth experimenting with.

Note: Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation seminar will be held 1-7 p.m., Oct. 13; and Basic ESP & Intuition Development 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 27-28. For details please call 8107245, 8926806.

CAMILLE Pin

©SONY ERICSSON / JASON BELL

JIE Zheng

©SONY ERICSSON / JASON BELL

ANA Ivanovic

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JELENA Jankovic

SEVERINE Bremond

Women of tennis

MOBILE PHONE MAKER Sony Ericsson captures the hidden depths of today's rising tennis stars through the lens of ace photographer Jason Bell.

The global Women's Tennis Association (WTA) unveils the inspiring stories and rare and fascinating gifts of the tour's hottest young players Severine Brémond, Zheng Jie, Maria Kirilenko, Jelena Jankovic, Camille Pin, and Ana Ivanovic.

The players traded in their rubber shoes and racquets for chic threads for the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour iconic photo shoot.

The mobile phone maker, the biggest sponsor of women's sport worldwide, commissioned the iconic images in an effort to take tennis to a new audience by highlighting the players' passions and personalities beyond their on-court performances.

Bremond has loved classical music before she walked into a tennis court.

She even dreamed of becoming a concert pianist.

Zheng, a graduate of Si Chuan Sports Academy, has three Sony Ericsson WTA Tour singles titles under her belt. She wants to encourage the young to take up the sport.

Kirilenko attributes her graceful executions to her dance background.

She has done ballet, ballroom and partner dancing.

Serbian Jankovic, currently no. 3 in the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, wants to let her passion loose in front of the lens.

She says it is fun to do anything that takes the mind off of tennis.

Away from the tennis court, Pin gets her needed surge of adventure underwater. She has a passion for water sports like diving, wakeboarding and waterskiing.

Ivanovic had her career defining moment in the 2006 Montreal Finals, winning against former Wimbledon champion Martina Hingis. The teenager is out to conquer the tour one swing at a time.

Visit www.sonyericssonwtatour.com.

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MARIA Kirilenko

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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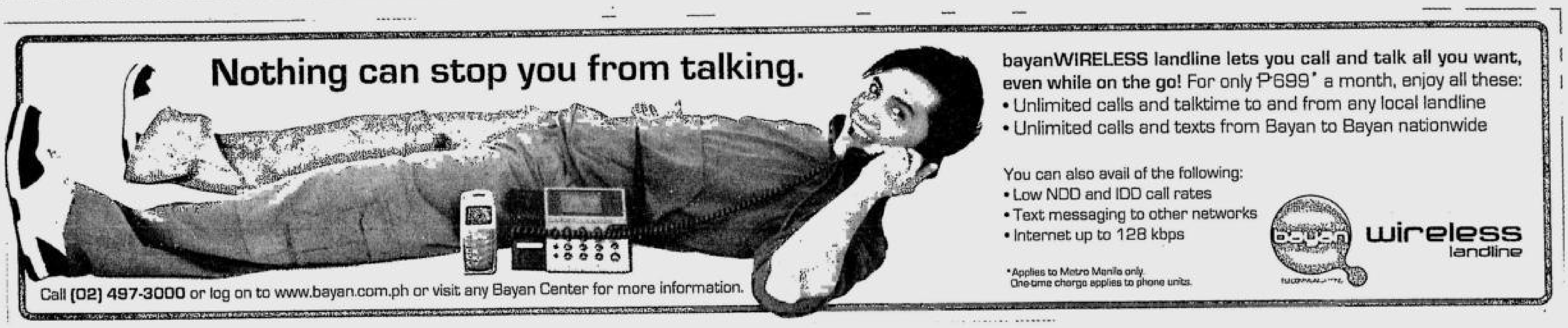
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Season for retroactive true confessions

IT'S THE SEASON FOR "RETROACTIVE stellar true confessions," starting with **Dennis Trillo**'s belated admission that he is the father of **Carlene Aguilar**'s baby. It took Dennis a while to summon up the resolve to admit to the child's paternity, possibly because he was nervous about how the admission could affect his stellar career.

It could then have been pointed out to him that **Piolo Pascual** has also had to own up to having fathered a love child, and yet he's remained popular even with female fans—who, in the distant past, could have felt "betrayed" by such a "shocking" revelation from their imagined screen "boyfriend."

So, if Dennis plays his cards right after being man enough to own up to Carlene's baby's paternity, he could similarly be "forgiven" by his fans—and all would be well with his world.

Pretty much the same thing happened to **Valerie Concepcion**, whose belatedly admitted single motherhood initially affected her career some years ago, but she's since bounced back.

This should boost the optimistic expectations of another recent "true confessor," **Camille Prats**, who's gone to the States to await the delivery of her own love child.

Reality check

Yes, there's stellar life even after an unwanted pregnancy, even if the star involved opts to remain single afterwards.

In Camille's case, the "shock value" was more intense than usual because she started her acting career as a cute, little child star. But, hey, time for a reality check: Even winsome screen moppets grow up, fall in love and learn about the birds and the bees.

The most unexpected "retroactive stellar true confession" this season is the one that **Snooky Serna** recently made on "Show Biz Central": She up and revealed that when she was only 14 years old, she was raped by an actor.

The revelation threw viewers for a loop because it was so late after the fact—and because, at 14, Snooky was one of the show biz's sunniest young stars, so you would never think that such a dastardly act could have been inflicted on her—and by an actor, yet.

Naturally, people want to know the identity of the guilty luminary, but Snooky has opted to remain silent on that score—and, indeed,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

about everything else related to the crime, except for the fact that it happened "at home."

So why has Snooky decided to go public about the rape, many years after it transpired? Because, she says, she wants "closure." But, how much closure can you get if the belated revelation is as partial as this?

Well, that's neither here nor there, as far as

SEASON/ D2

SNOOKY Serna

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

DENNIS Trillo

CAMILLE Prats

JESSICA Alba

Jessica Alba tries comedy

LOS ANGELES—IN HER LATEST movie, Jessica Alba falls into a penguin pond, stabs Dane Cook with a dental tool and accidentally tears off her skirt by closing it in a car door.

Alba plays Cam, a clumsy penguin-keeper who captures Cook's heart in "Good Luck Chuck."

The role represents a departure for Alba, who gained fame as an action star — first on TV's "Dark Angel," then in films such as "Fantastic Four" and "Sin City."

JESSICA/ D4

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WEDDING DAZE R13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10;10	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50,4:00,6:10,8:20	KNOCKED UP R18 12:00,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:30
EVENING PG13 1:45,4:15,6:45,9:15	DECEMBER BOYS PG13 1:30,3:45,6:00,8:15	NO RESERVATIONS G 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20

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RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50	WEDDING DAZE 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	EVENING 1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	NO RESERVATION 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

ARAMALL CINEMAS DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	ROUGE ASSASSIN 12:15 03 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:45	I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:10 RM / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30

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4	RESIDENT EVIL	11:50 , 2:10 , 4:25 , 6:40 , 9:00	R-13
5	CHUCK & LARRY	12:00 , 2:40 , 5:20 , 8:00 , 10:35	R-13

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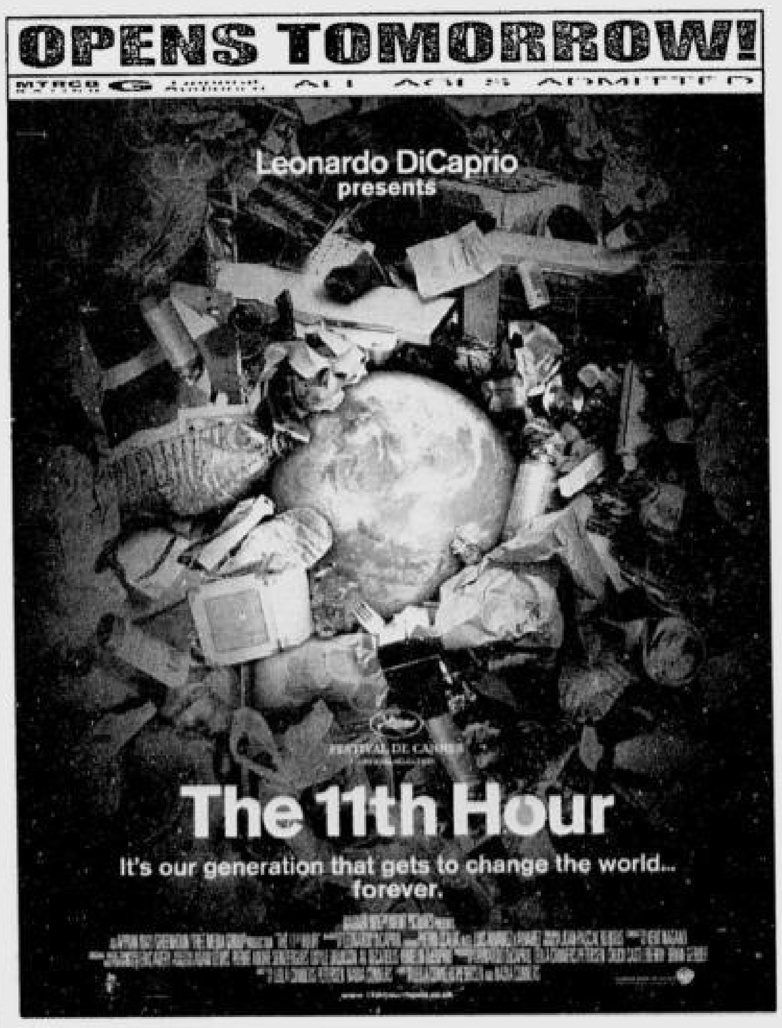
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Season for . . .

From page D1

the actress is concerned. Partial or not, it works for her.

However, others want to know more—not just out of a gossip mentality, but because they feel the guilty should be exposed and punished, or at the very least censured, to dissuade other would-be violators from victimizing young people.

Since that key information isn't presently available, however, we have to end this piece with the hope that Snooky has indeed moved on. Even better, we trust that she will soon be given a chance to revitalize her TV-film career, because she's one of the better actresses we have.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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1 NO RESERVATION • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

3 EVENING
11:55 2:30 5:05 7:40 10:00

4 WEDDING DAZE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 DECEMBER BOYS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

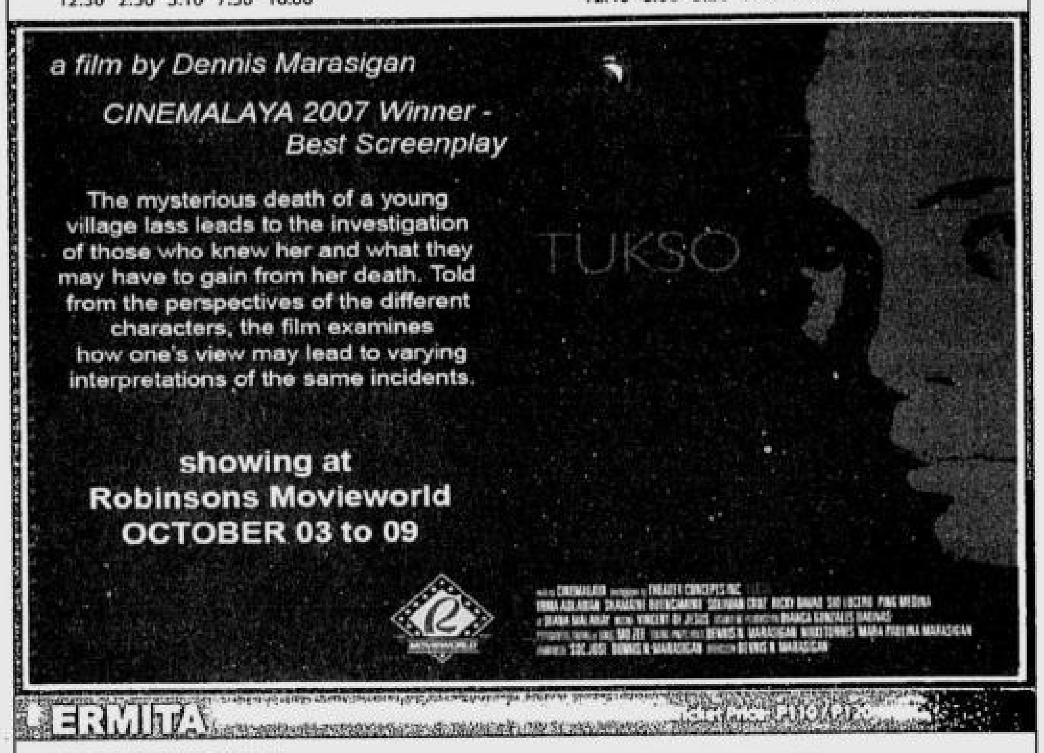
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 indieSine: TUKSO
1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45

9 KNOCKED UP
Sneak Preview

10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00



a film by Dennis Marasigan

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ERMITA

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 KNOCKED UP
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3 DECEMBER BOYS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 WEDDING DAZE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

exclusive screening

Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
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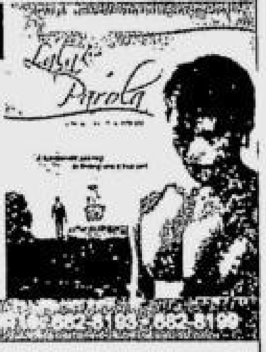
"Ang Lalake sa Parola" offers a haunting yet insightful glimpse into one man's struggle to discover his true self in a world caught between fantasy and reality. In the midst of a conservative rural community, he must choose between being straight or coming out - and ultimately discovers that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

MTRCB Rating R18



METRO EAST

[illegible] 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 WEDDING DAZE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 NO RESERVATION
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & ;ARRY
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00

4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

6 KNOCKED UP
Sneak Preview

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

8 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATION
3 KNOCKED UP Sneak Preview
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER

[illegible] 687-5378

1 WEDDING DAZE
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05

3 KNOCKED UP Sneak Preview

4 DECEMBER BOYS
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

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3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
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2 BRATZ
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 KNOCKED UP Sneak Preview

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1 THE HOST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

[illegible]

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 BRATZ
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 THE HOST

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1 THE LAST LEGION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 STOMP the YARD
6 DISTURBIA

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1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 NANCY DREW
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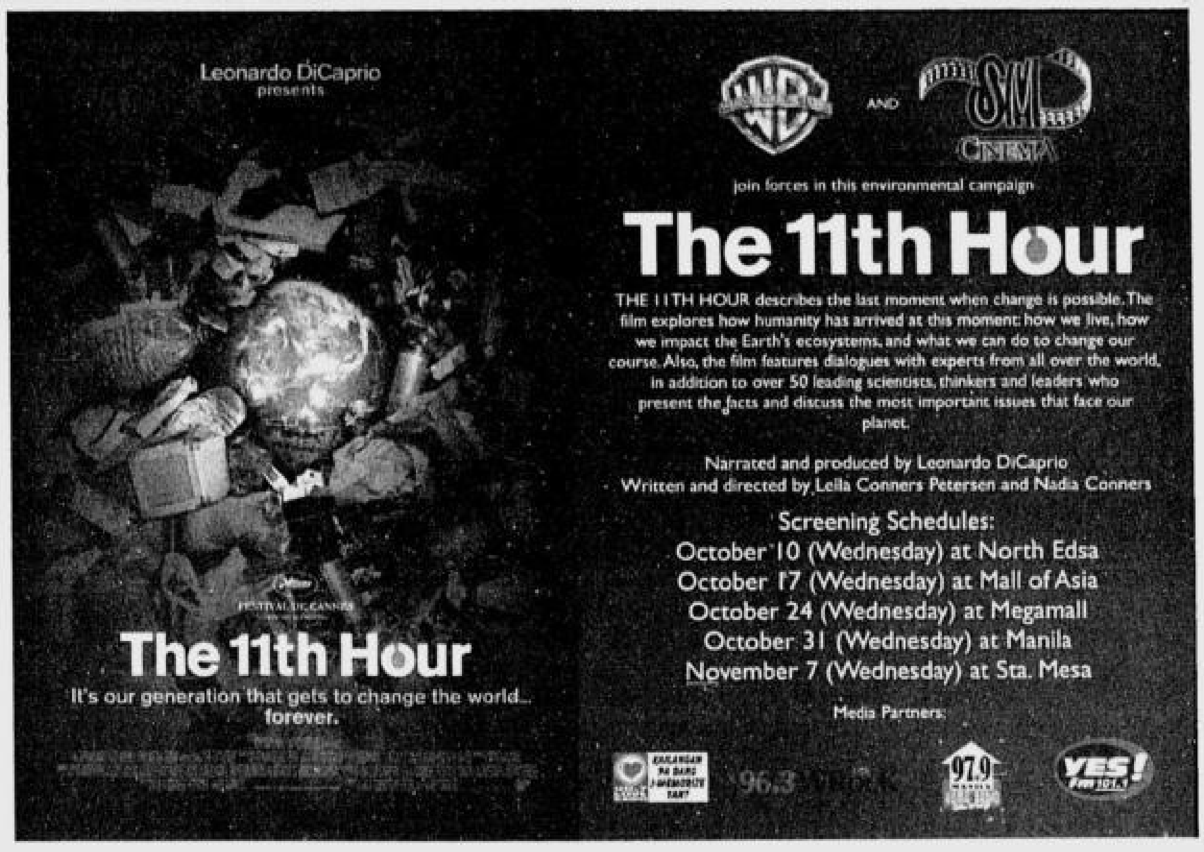

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3 DECEMBER BOYS/THE BRAVE ONE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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2 EVENING
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 DECEMBER BOYS
10 1408
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 1408
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 DECEMBER BOYS
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 THE BRAVE ONE
11 NO RESERVATIONS
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 UNDERDOG
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 A LOVE STORY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 SHOOT EM' UP
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 1408

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 UNDERDOG
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 1408
9 SHOOT EM' UP
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 NO RESERVATION
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 NO RESERVATION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 DECEMBER BOYS
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 NO RESERVATION
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 DISTURBIA
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 UNDERDOG
12 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 THE HOST

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 THE HOST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 NO RESERVATION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 WEDDING DAZE
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 DAYWATCH
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4 SKINWALKERS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 THE LAST LEGION

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 BRATZ
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NANCY DREW
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 SKINWALKERS
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 BRATZ
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 BRATZ
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 NANCY DREW

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 ZOMBIES

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 BRATZ

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 SKINWALKERS
2 BLIND DATING
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 SINKING OF JAPAN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 BRATZ
2 NANCY DREW
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 **RESERVED**
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 **RESERVED**
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 SINKING OF JAPAN
3 DAYWATCH
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

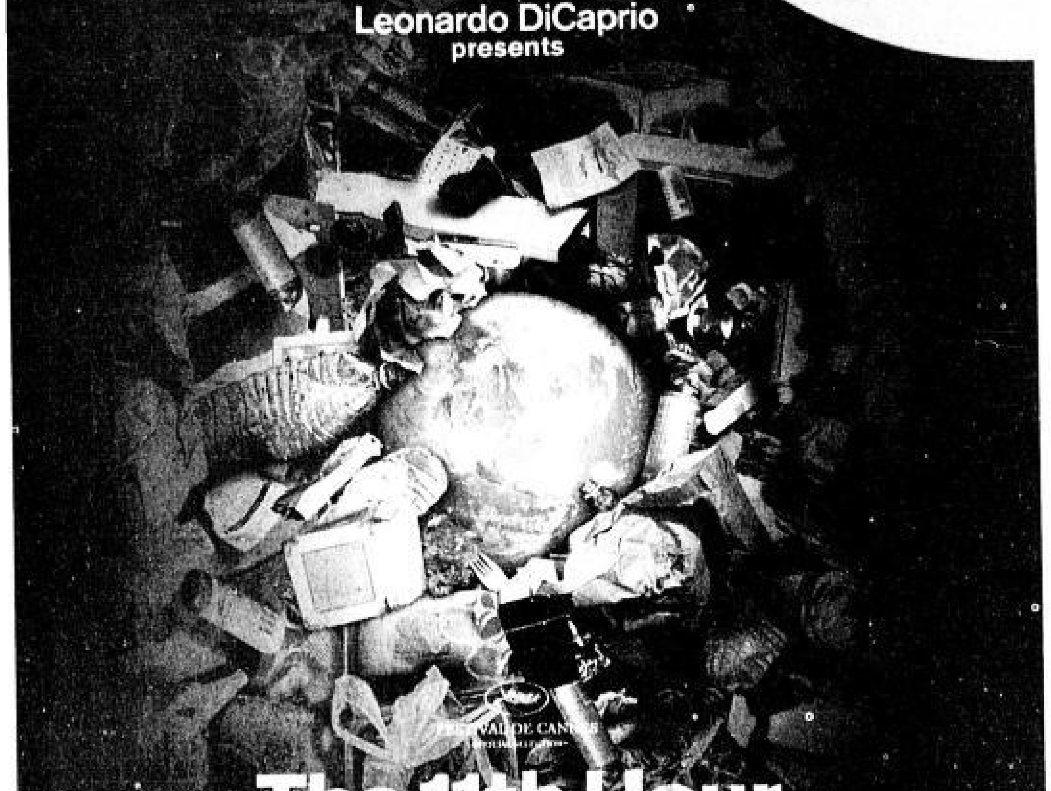
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Ayala CINEMAS

Leonardo DiCaprio
presents



The 11th Hour

It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.

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NARRATED BY LEONARDO DiCAPRIO EDITORS PIETRO SCALIA, A.C.E. LUIS ALVAREZ Y ALVAREZ MUSIC BY JEAN-PASCAL BEINTUS CONDUCTED BY KENT NAGANO
ERIC AVERY ADAM LEWIS PIERRE ANDRE SENIZERGUES DOYLE BRUNSON AL DECAROLIS IRMELIN DiCAPRIO
PRODUCED BY LEONARDO DiCAPRIO LEILA CONNERS PETERSEN CHUCK CASTLEBERRY BRIAN GERBER
WRITTEN BY LEILA CONNERS PETERSEN NADIA CONNERS DIRECTED BY LEILA CONNERS PETERSEN AND NADIA CONNERS
www.11thhourmovie.co.uk

OPENS TOMORROW AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA

Visit and be enlightened by the

EXHIBIT ON SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

by WWF Philippines and Ayala Land, Inc. at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby from October 4 - 16.

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE ORIGINAL GANG from "KUNG FU HUSTLE" is BACK
MORE ACTION. MORE SPECIAL EFFECTS. MORE LAUGHS.

VANNESS WU
IRON HEAD
MADAM BUTTERFLY
THE BEAST
THE INSPECTOR
FAT BOY
AXE GANG LEADER
OPENS TOMORROW

功夫
KUNG FU FIGHTER

SHANG CINEPLEX

① NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB GP
1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:50

② WEDDING DAZE
MTRCB R-13
2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

③ KNOCKED UP
MTRCB R-18

④ DECEMBER BOYS
MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
EVENING (PG-13) 2 00, 10:00pm / RESIDENT EVIL - 3 (R-13) 5 10, 7 35

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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or call 633-4735 for details

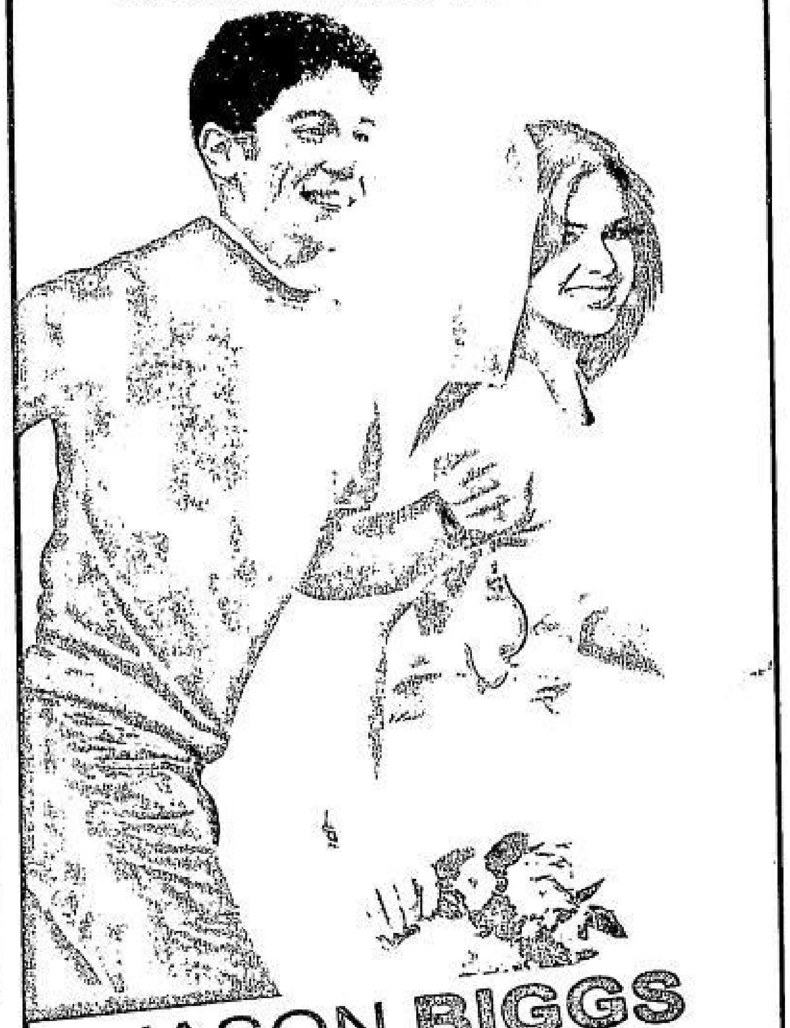
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.

NOW SHOWING

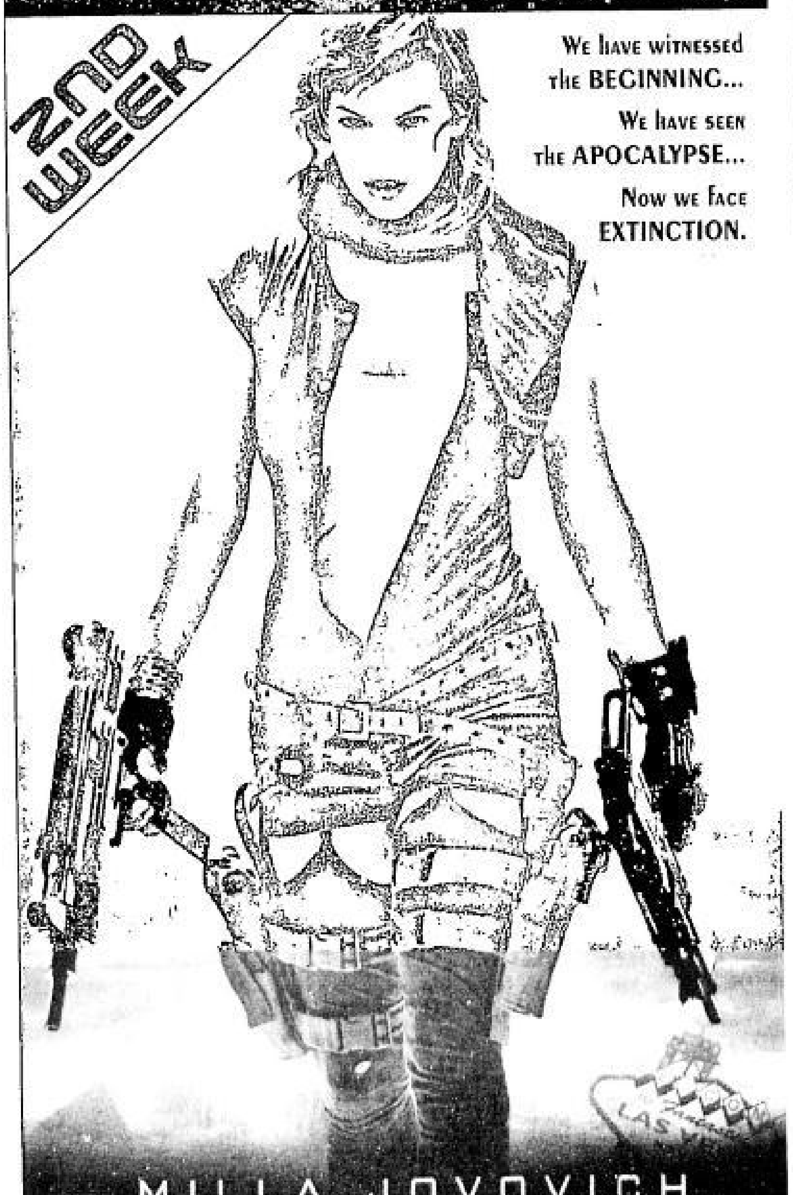
KATIE AND ANDERSON ARE GETTING MARRIED...
THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO



JASON BIGGS
ISLA FISHER

WEDDING DAZE

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
$24,168,865
HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)



We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.

MILLA JOVOVICH

RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 WEDDING DAZE
KNOCKED UP (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 DECEMBER BOYS
PREMIERE
EVENING
RESIDENT EVIL - 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
KNOCKED UP (SNEAK PREVIEW)

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433954
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 THE INVASION
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

THEATRES
1 SHOOT EM UP
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660 5271
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 DECEMBER BOYS/THE BRAVE ONE
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 WEDDING DAZE
KNOCKED UP (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
8 1408
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (DOLBY) RUGUE ASSASSIN
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SKINWALKERS
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 UNDERDOG
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 WEDDING DAZE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 HOST
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 SHOOT EM UP

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 EVENING / KNOCKED UP
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 WEDDING DAZE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SHOOT EM UP
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SHOOT EM UP
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 BLIND DATING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE BRAVE ONE / NANCY DREW
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 LAST LEGION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 RISE BLOOD HUNTER
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PLEASE CALL
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 HOST
2 HAMOG SA BUKANG LIWAYWAY
3 MGA BABAE SA ISLA ASUL
4 BRATZ

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 HULING BERHEN
3 IVE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 MAHAROT
5 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BRATZ
2 NANCY DREW
3 BALAT SIBUYAS
4 SHOOT EM UP

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Jessica Alba tries comedy

From page D1

The 26-year-old actress, whose current crop of projects includes a horror film and a romantic comedy with Mike Myers, talked with The Associated Press about her dream career, her role model and plans to go into other aspects of show business.

What drew you to the role in "Good Luck Chuck"?

I loved the girl in this film. I liked that she was, you know, the moral center and the good girl.

Were you looking for a comedic project?

Yeah, I've always loved to make people laugh and it was the way that I sort of broke the ice when I was a kid with my friends. I'd always do little skits, do anything to make people laugh.

Did you always want to be an actor?

I've always loved entertaining. It's kind of in my blood. There's a bunch of theater actors and artists, painters, sculptors in my family. I've always loved watching movies, the idea of being able to entertain the masses, the power of that.

Do you have any career role models?

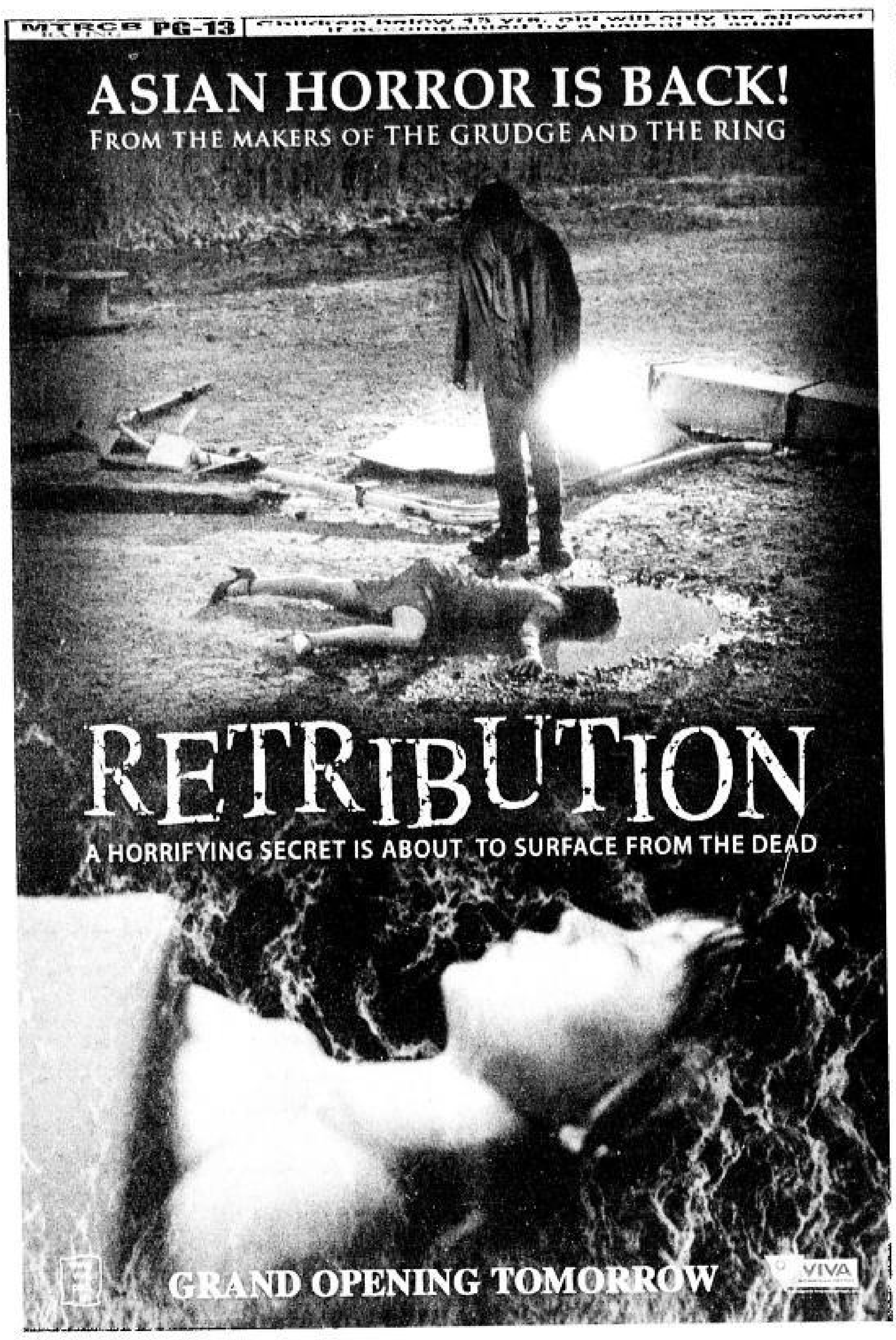
Definitely Drew (Barrymore). Working with her (on "Never Been Kissed") when I was 16 and seeing how she absolutely loves what she does and is still totally inspired, yeah, she definitely has been a role model.

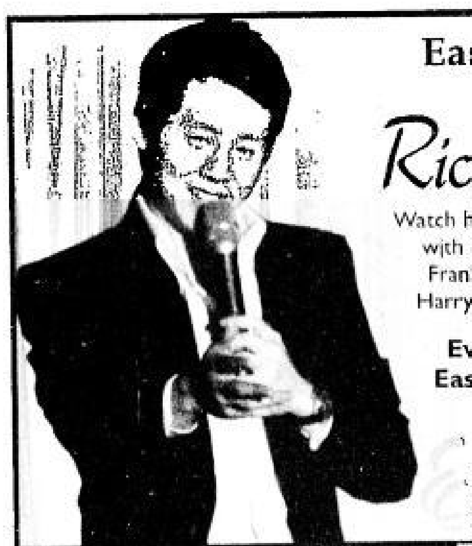
Do you also want to go into producing, writing and directing?

Definitely producing. I wouldn't say writing and directing. That's a whole other beast. I respect a) writers and b) directors way too much to think that I could just go in and just write up a little script. People dedicate their lives to telling stories.

What would you be doing if you weren't an actor?

I would probably want to be a documentary filmmaker, and be able to use documentaries and in an entertaining way (make) thought-provoking commentaries on social issues that are going on in the world. *AP*


MTRCB RATING PG-13
ASIAN HORROR IS BACK!
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE GRUDGE AND THE RING
RETRIBUTION
A HORRIFYING SECRET IS ABOUT TO SURFACE FROM THE DEAD
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW
VIVA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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	WEDDING DAZE 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13	
2	DECEMBER BOYS 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13	
3	RESIDENT EVIL 3 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13	
4	EVENING 3:10, 5:50 R-13	KNOCKED UP 8:25, 11:10 PG-13

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

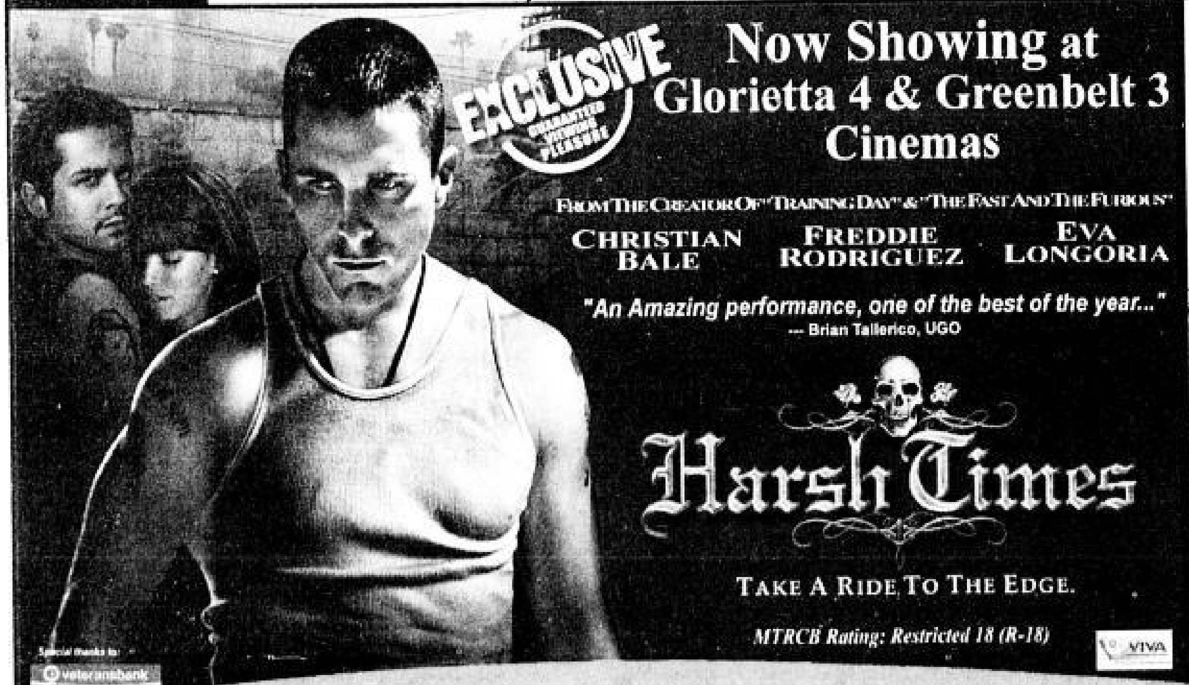
GLORIETTA 1	1 WEDDING DAZE	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 KNOCKED UP			
GLORIETTA 4	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 EVENING	3 THX WEDDING DAZE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KNOCKED UP	5 DECEMBER BOYS	6 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 WEDDING DAZE					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARSH TIMES GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX KNOCKED UP	2 NO RESERVATIONS	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 DECEMBER BOYS	5 NO RESERVATIONS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 DAYWATCH	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 SINKING OF JAPAN			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 KNOCKED UP	3 DECEMBER BOYS	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 KNOCKED UP	2 EVENING	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 NO RESERVATIONS	6 WEDDING DAZE	7 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Greenbelt 1 Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center


EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
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Harsh Times
TAKE A RIDE TO THE EDGE.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
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VIVA

urban beats
Superbands at Glorietta
6pm - 7:30pm
Oct. 12
Glorietta 3 Park
Sinosikat
Hilera
Oct. 20
Glorietta 4 Park
Taken By Cars
Mojofly
Oct. 24
Glorietta Activity Center
Kastigo
Kjwan
Oct. 31
Glorietta Activity Center
Stonefree
Cambio
NU107 HOME OF NU ROCK
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

CLAIRE DANES with MICHELLE PFEIFFER and ROBERT DE NIRO
CHARLIE COX SIENNA MILLER RICKY GERVAIS PETER O'TOOLE
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE
STARDUST
IN THEATERS OCTOBER 10